

Hafa Adai!

DPS restricts social media use of its officers. **PAGE 3**

Labor finds \$31.1M overpayment in PUA/FPUC, collects \$28M. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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SOPHIA IS LAID TO REST

The family and friends of Sophia Patricia Aldan Demapan, the victim in the fatal hit-and-run along Route 30 in Marpi, escort her casket out of the Mount Carmel Cathedral following her Christian burial Mass yesterday.

Story on Page 2

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

PALACIOS REMAINS COY ABOUT HIS PLANS

Apatang likely running mate if...

GCEA celebrates milestones, sets bigger goals

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By **MIKE SABLAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.



The late representative Ivan Alafonso Blanco once commented how the Public Private Partnership initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic of Advisers allows people working in

See TOGETHER on Page 4

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios decides to run for governor in the 2022 gubernatorial election, Saipan Mayor David Apatang would most likely be his run-

ning mate. Palacios himself confirmed this in an interview at his residence in Gualo Rai, but he still

remained coy about his political plans. As of yesterday, Palacios said he was not committed to running as governor in the November 2022 elections, **See APATANG on Page 4**

CNMI ENTRY REQUIREMENTS UPDATED

All travelers required to quarantine in govt facility

Effective today, Aug. 20, 2021, all inbound travelers to the CNMI are required to quarantine in a designated government facility for five days, as per the latest update to the CNMI's entry requirements.

According to an Office of

the Governor news statement last night, it said all travelers will be tested for COVID-19 on arrival and on their fifth day in quarantine. Travelers will be released after they test negative for COVID-19 on the **See TRAVELERS on Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:53pm, Aug. 18, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population

Fully Vaccinated: **75.7%**

Days since last community transmission **149**

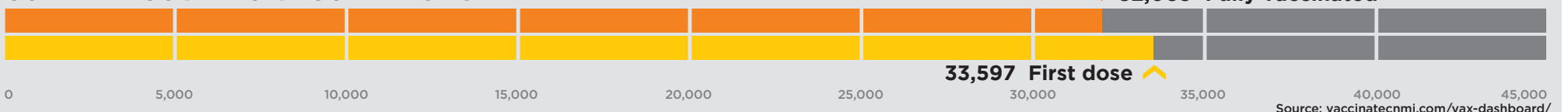
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,102
Fully Vaccinated:	27,201
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,495
Fully Vaccinated:	4,173
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	695

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9,118	82	9,200
Recovered	8,562	15	8,577
Active	397	82	479
Deaths	144	0	144

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	220	1	221
Traced via Travel Screening	183	1	184
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar is offering a Sunday brunch buffet beginning Aug. 22.

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OFF THE WALL

Boston's famous Skinny House is on sale again for a whopping \$1.2 million.

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LIFE & STYLE

The long-anticipated trial of R. Kelly has begun unfolding in a Brooklyn courtroom.

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Local

Hit-and-run victim is laid to rest

The 20-year-old female victim in the Marpi hit-and-run nearly a month ago was laid to rest following a ceremony at the Mount Carmel Cathedral yesterday morning.

Friends, family, and supporters of the *JusticeForSophia* movement came out one last time to see off 20-year-old Sophia Patricia Aldan Demapan, the victim in a fatal hit-and-run along Route 30 in Marpi.

The ceremony started with a rosary at 8:30am followed immediately by a public viewing. The burial Mass began at around 10:30am before Demapan's casket was escorted out of the cathedral by dozens of her friends and immediate and extended family members.

Demapan is survived by her son, Skyler Jordan Demapan; her mother, Krystal Aldan; her father, Ignacio Demapan; and her four siblings: Gordon Demapan, Ignacio Demapan III, Bernard Demapan, and Warren Demapan.

Saipan Tribune learned from sources that Demapan's body was only released from the Commonwealth Health Center morgue last Wednesday, a week since the alleged driver of the vehicle that struck her was arrested.

As a standard protocol, the

bodies of individuals involved in ongoing investigations are not released until the case has officially been closed.

Demapan was found lifeless along the side of Route 30 in Marpi on July 27, after the Department of Public Safety responded on July 27 at around 9:52pm to a report about an unresponsive individual lying on the shoulder of the road just north of the former Mariana Resort & Spa.

A Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services report states that firefighters found multiple lacerations and deformities on Demapan's lifeless body. In addition, the officers also noticed that she sustained multiple fractures and severe injuries to her head. DFEMS transported Demapan to CHC at 11:45pm where she was pronounced dead at 1am by Dr. Bryan Strickland.

DPS made an arrest over a week following the incident but the case was later sealed after the Superior Court decided to try as a minor the alleged driver of the vehicle that hit Demapan.

The case exploded on social media due to the family's efforts to find answers, which resulted in the *JusticeForSophia* movement. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

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DPS restricts social media use of its officers

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has issued a directive within the department that would restrict its officers' posts on their personal social media accounts.

The directive, which was signed and issued by Police Director Aniceto Ogomuro last Tuesday, was confirmed by DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan to be true.

Pangelinan said the directive was sent out for two reasons, the most important being to prevent the "oversharing" of sensitive information in ongoing cases.

"The first reason is to prevent any future photo, video, audio postings of any ongoing cases. For example, if an officer responds to an incident he/she should refrain from taking pictures, or video at the scene and making them public on social media, especially if it is a sensitive case. Posting any media online with the victim

exposed is uncaring toward the victim's friends, family, or loved ones. The second reason is for the new graduates of the

academy to acknowledge and understand the protocol on future cases," he said.

According to Ogomuro,

the directive will ensure that all DPS personnel adhere to departmental standards, while understanding their rights as

private citizens, and how certain activities on social media can affect them as DPS employees.

"Because of recent posts on social media regarding matters of the department, I urge all

commanders to hold a meeting with each employee to go over our social media directive and department rules and regulations to ensure that each employee understands," he said.

See DPS on Next Page

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Labor finds \$31.1M overpayment in PUA/FPUC; collects \$28M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To date, the CNMI Department of Labor has traced \$31.1 million overpayments in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, and Lost Wages Assistance, and collected \$28 million from such overpayments, according to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

In her PowerPoint presentation before the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations' oversight hearing Friday on PUA/PFUC, Benavente said the \$28,027,428 that they have collected out of the \$31,132,537 in overpayments will be returned to the PUA/PFUC programs.

Benavente disclosed that, as of last month, Labor's Benefit Payment Control Unit, which conducts fraud investigations and audit, identified 4,010 overpayment cases. A



Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Judiciary and Governmental Operations chair Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) hugs Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente after Friday's oversight hearing at the House of Representatives chamber on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

total of 2,100 of these overpayment cases have been identified as out of the state or out of the CNMI, while 1,868 cases were within the Com-

monwealth, she said.

Benavente said 442 cases were fraudulent claims as the claimants don't fall under the qualified aliens or

qualified citizens category.

She said 1,400 cases have been identified as disqualified claims.

Benavente said that last July, they received about 30 applications a day, but now they're up to almost 70 applicants per day.

She said the U.S. Department of Labor continues to monitor CNMI Labor. "We used to have almost daily briefings with the U.S. Department of Labor. Then we became I guess compliant and they were giving us weekly conference calls and now we're up to monthly conference calls," she said.

Benavente also showed the committee a copy of a letter from a U.S. DOL supervisor about the CNMI Labor's compliance with implementation of the PUA and FPUC programs. The supervisor stated that the CNMI has been cooperative and timely in providing the U.S. DOL information and data regarding the PUA and PFUC programs.

Benavente said the letter shows that they have been following every

single rule and guideline that has been issued to the CNMI as a state. "And this is the reason why U.S. DOL continues to provide funding for our PUA and FPUC programs. Because if we weren't in compliance we would not be getting any grants or funding from the U.S. Department of Labor," she pointed out.

She said the CNMI has received a total of about \$706 million for PUA and PFUC programs and that their cumulative expenditures is about \$209 million.

Benavente said they were given \$4.2 million for administrative costs for the PUA program and that \$3.1 million has been expended to date.

She said they have to submit a weekly report to the U.S. DOL and tell them how many weeks, how many applicants, how many eligible applicants, and how many are pending, and how many were disqualified.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TRAVELERS

From Page 1

fifth day. All travelers who test positive for COVID-19 will be isolated in the designated government facility for 10 days.

All pending home quarantine applications will be denied. Travelers currently in-home quarantine are expected to complete their quarantine at home and are required to report to their fifth-day test.

The statement said the entry requirements are being updated as the safety of the residents of the CNMI remains the top priority of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

With an increase in cases being identified on arrival and fifth-day testing of persons who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination series (breakthrough cases), it is crucial for the wellbeing of the residents of the CNMI to contain the spread of COVID-19 at the border. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a vaccine breakthrough

infection is defined as the detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen in a respiratory specimen collected from a person greater than or equal to 14 days after they have completed all recommended doses of a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

Essential workers requesting entry into CNMI must complete the essential worker request section within the online CNMI Mandatory Declaration Form at least three days prior to arrival. The request will be reviewed by the CNMI Territorial Health Official for a decision. Not all requests are automatically approved.

Travelers who are requesting Critical or Essential Work approval will be evaluated based on the strength of work justification, point of origin, negative PCR test results dated no more than 72 hours prior to arrival, COVID-19 vaccinations, and transit/flight plans. Grantees are required to practice COVID-19 precautions at all times and abide with other establishments' social distancing expectations.

Essential workers may report to work after receiving their test results

from specimen collected on the day of arrival and approval of job-site assessment. Travelers in this category are urged to communicate with the CNMI Territorial Health Official via travelers.health@chcc.health in advance of planning their trip to CNMI.

An "essential worker" is one listed in the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Advisory List accessible from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity, and Infrastructure Security Agency at <http://www.cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors>.

The CNMI, while recognizing CISA categories, has established a local process to consider modified quarantine for certain essential work needs critical for CNMI. Simply being in a CISA category should not be perceived as a reason to be exempted from our local procedures, nor does it confer "approved essential worker" for the CNMI.

All travelers are encouraged to fill out their health declaration form at least 72 hours prior to arrival at <https://governor.gov.mp/covid-19/travel>. (PR)

statement was news to a lot of people because it appears the rule was changed by the GOP board of directors.

He said that in his experience with the Republican Party, whether he was sitting in office or even prior to that being a supporter, whenever the party makes a proposal to change any of the rules or protocols or especially the party's bylaws, the party first calls for a general membership meeting.

Palacios said the general members of the Republican Party would ratify that change, but this time, he does not remember a general membership meeting held to ratify that particular change in the bylaws.

"When you begin to change the rules with five people running the show, you need to be very transparent, and you need to give it out to the members. Because the members are the strength of the Republican Party throughout its history," he said.

DLG Torres made a commitment when they were still campaigning that they're going to fix things even if it is painful. "That didn't go over well with a lot of people, particularly department heads who are used to being given almost a free rein," he said.

In retrospect, Palacios said, he believes he became almost an inconvenience to a lot of folks in the government.

On another subject, the lieutenant governor said CNMI Republican Party president James Ada was recently quoted in a news article as to what will happen if he (Palacios) will run as governor too. Ada had said that their bylaws state that if the incumbent governor runs for re-election, all other party members have to respect the party's bylaws. That was interpreted to mean that if Palacios were to run for governor, he has to do it either as an independent candidate or move to another party.

Palacios pointed out that Ada's

APATANG

From Page 1

adding that he will announce his decision on the matter "sooner than later."

When asked to talk about his health, he assured that he is healthy, and earlier had sciatic pain that he said has been fixed.

He described the sciatic pain as "almost like a pinched nerve" and that it was very painful but was an easily fixable issue. "At the end of the day, we got it fixed," he added.

Palacios said he immediately started working when he got back on island early this year. "I feel really good, really reinvigorated. I had my issue addressed. It was very successful," said the lieutenant governor, referring to his spinal surgery.

Palacios said his health should have never been enough to rationalize or justify why he is "not in the picture."

Palacios said he and Gov. Ralph

TOGETHER

From Page 1

different capacities to come together and support the same cause—taking care of our islands. He saw the PPP campaign as a way to inspire every community member to step up, get organized, and help transform the Marianas.

Rep. Ivan devoted time to spruce up tourist sites and village facilities on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The paint splattered on his trademark working military pants proved how many murals, pavilions, basketball courts, and parking lots he helped to upgrade since he and members of the Legislature came onboard the PPP initiative.

Tomorrow, GCEA will recognize the 58 groups that have taken on the challenge to help the Marianas realize its potential as a world-class destination and provide residents and tourists clean and safe facilities to enjoy. The recognition ceremony will cap the GCEA's Marianas-wide first anniversary celebration, as we celebrated this milestone on Rota and Tinian earlier this summer.

To mark the Saipan celebration, our PPP partners have been conducting cleanup and beautification drives since last week and will continue their work tomorrow morning before heading down to Susupe for the appreciation event. We can't thank our PPP partners enough. They have honored their commitment to help turn things around for our islands.

Looking back on the past year, we have uncovered the real condition of our islands' facilities due to back-to-back natural disasters and the lack of maintenance. Today, through the combined efforts of gov-

ernment agencies and officials, businesses, and the ethnic, cultural, and sports groups, we have been able to make significant strides toward our end goal of providing a better quality of life for all who call the Marianas home.

However, there's more work to be done. We now call on our PPP partners and those who are getting ready to join the campaign to take things to the next level. While we prepare for and await the safe return of tourism to our islands, let's continue our community beautification work and also think of bigger and better ways to improve the Marianas. Together, we can all pitch in and support initiatives that will transform our islands to attract more visitors to help in the recovery of the tourism industry.

Late last month, South Koreans visited our islands as a part of the travel bubble agreement between the Marianas and South Korea. Their itinerary included a visit to Marpi sites, and while they gave positive feedback about their visit, there's more we could offer them, our future visitors and our residents through the proposed Marpi Visitors Center and transformation projects in the area.

There's quite a long list of initiatives from GCEA and proposed projects under the PPP campaign. They will not be accomplished overnight, but the growing number of PPP partners is encouraging us to push harder and surpass the accomplishments of our first year. Together, We Can improve life in the Marianas for generations to come.

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

DPS

From Page 3

The memo essentially instructs all DPS personnel to refrain from social media activities.

"The department understands that each employee is free to express themselves as private citizens, but regarding department matters, there

are steps that employees can take to express their concerns. If an employee is found to be in violation of the directive on social media or any department rules and regulations, disciplinary/adverse action steps will be taken to address the matter," he said.

Ogumuro declined to elaborate when asked about the memorandum, but he confirmed that it came from him.

E-gaming firms appeal to Saipan delegation to amend local law

MP Holdings LLC and Mariana Entertainment, LLC, which owns Saipan Vegas and Club 88 respectively, wrote Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Vinson F Sablan (R-Saipan) yesterday to ask the delegation to amend Saipan Local Law 22-6.

It was earlier reported that SLL 22-6, which doubles the license fees imposed on e-gaming machines, that this new tax will likely force the closure of both venues and will result in a loss of 70 jobs.

Bart Jackson, general manager of MP Holdings and Mariana Entertainment, said: "In

an effort to find a compromise solution to the harsh effects of the newly doubled license fees on e-gaming machines, I have asked the Saipan delegation to lower the license fee. My opinion is that the new license fee, without a change, is harsh and unreasonable.

"We have respectfully requested an amendment to SLL 22-6 lowering the license fee. We have offered a compromise of \$500 increase on the per machine license fee.

"We remain available at any time to meet with members of the Saipan delegation to further discuss the new

license fee and to come to a compromise solution. We

have already reached out and requested to meet with the delegation, but to date, the delegation has been unwilling to

meet with us. We would like an opportunity to present our case to the delegation and to work with the delegation to-

ward a workable compromise that will save the e-gaming industry and will preserve 70 local jobs," he said. **(PR)**

Senate, House present joint resolution plaque honoring ESGR and volunteers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate and House of Representatives held Monday a joint presentation of a plaque recognizing and acknowledging the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee and their volunteer members, for their exceptional service and commitment to service men and women.

The plaque, which contains House Joint Resolution 22-9 that was authored by Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), also recognizes the week of Aug. 16 to 20 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week." The Senate and House adopted the resolution.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez said they do the joint presentation every year, showing support for the ESGR.

Present to receive the plaque were Dr. Rita Sablan, who was recently designated chair for the ESGR CNMI area Committee, and Rose Igitol, chair emeritus for the ESGR CNMI area in charge of employer outreach. Also present were Joanna Aquino, an ESGR volunteer who serves as CNMI area ombudsman; Mike Sablan, who is the civilian aide secretary of the Army and an executive of Triple J; and other ESGR members and volunteers.

Sablan said they're really excited for the opportunity to

meet with the lawmakers and to receive the very special joint resolution.

ESGR is the Department of Defense's volunteer organization for 49 years now.

"As we celebrate ESGR week, not only do we recognize the volunteers for the work that they do in the community, but we're also very pleased and honored to always have employers out there supporting the Guards and Reserve," Sablan said.

The Guards and Reserve, she said, not only have jobs as weekend warriors, but are also always ready to perform when called for duty.

"In addition to that, there's a great sacrifice on their part, especially their families, as they see them off to go to their military obligation," Sablan said.

She noted that sometimes those obligations can last a year or so.

She said ESGR week is about recognizing employers who value the support, work, and effort of the service members that contribute back to the community within their organization as employees.

"And of course we also want to recognize our Guard members, our service members because of the double sacrifice or all the sacrifice that they do," Sablan said.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, major ESGR events such as the lunch with the bosses have been suspended.

1 traveler tests positive; Road to 80 goes to Rota

One more incoming traveler was confirmed positive for COVID-19. The individual was identified by travel screening and confirmed through arrival testing on Aug. 18. The case brings the CNMI's total to 221 cases.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the individual has since then been quarantined and monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspec-

tion team has already initiated contract tracing for those who were in most immediate contact with the individual.

In related news, COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80 arrived on Rota yesterday, and will select the winners of multiple raffles on Facebook Live at 5pm today, streaming from Pizzaria Bar and Grill. There will be \$1,000 total for raffles exclusive to Rota residents, and one win-

ner of \$3,500 for Road to 80's CNMI-wide raffle this week.

With the help of the Rota Mayor's Office, the Road to 80 raffle that is exclusive to Rota residents will have one \$500 raffle, two \$250 raffles, and five \$100 raffles. Additionally, Rota residents who receive their first vaccine shot from 8:30am to 10:30am at the Rota Health Center today will instantly receive \$20 in cash. Simi-

larly on Saipan, those who receive their first vaccine shots at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe will be able to instantly receive \$20 in cash, while supplies last.

To qualify for Road to 80's raffles, a person must be a CNMI resident and must have already received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine. **(Joshua Santos)**

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Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan pose with some members of the Committee to Elect Torres-Sablan during the announcement last Aug. 15, 2021, of Sablan as Torres' running mate this coming gubernatorial election.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Torres-Sablan tandem forms campaign committee

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Incumbent gubernatorial candidate Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate for lieutenant governor, Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan, announced Wednesday the formation of their campaign committee leadership.

The Committee to Elect Torres-Sablan will be composed of CNMI Republican Party president James A. Ada, Mark I. Palacios, Victor B. Hocog, Juan S. Tenorio (Santiago), Ramon A. Tebuteb, Mathilda A. Rosario, Roman Tudela Sr., Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, Viola Alepuyo, Vince DLG Torres, Jack DLG Torres, Zerlyn A. Taimanao, and Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

"Every election is a crucial time to reach out to the public, listen to their concerns, express our vision for our islands, report on the good work we have accomplished, and to bring our community together to exercise their right to have their voices heard in their government," Torres said.

"This team we have brought together is composed of accomplished leaders who have served our community in many ways. This campaign is about the strength of our people, and this coming together of community leaders ensures that we all find common ground in achieving solutions to better the lives of everyone who calls the Marianas home," Torres added.

Sablan extended his appreciation to the committee members for their service. "We have all been through so much over this short time especially with the pandemic, but we have all come together because we want to see our entire community succeed. This takes effort, outreach, compassion, and a willingness to reach across all members of our islands to bring them into the table, into the discussion, about how we can continue to build a stronger Commonwealth, together," Sablan said.

Sablan outlined the approach the committee will take for the upcoming 2022 general election. "We are 'Together, Stronger,' and that is more than just a slogan. It

means that we have to put aside the negativity, realize our common strengths and run a campaign based on the truth and positivity for these critical years ahead of us."

Torres highlighted the role of the committee in the months to come, underscoring the breadth of the committee members' experience, their years of public service, and their active roles throughout the community.

"These individuals will help us reach out to the community we seek to serve, bring in more voices to the conversation, and help us build this movement toward a proactive and responsible government that can continue to protect our people, lift up those in need, and respond to the challenges that we will face. We welcome everyone to our movement of positivity and progress," Torres said. "I thank the members of our committee and the many, many people across the CNMI that have reached out to support our candidacy. There is a lot of negativity out there, mostly on social media, driven by untruths and ulterior motivations by critics who do not have a proven track record of real solutions. However, we remain optimistic of the potential for our beautiful islands and that through service, communication, and love for one another, we can build a strong and vibrant community here in the CNMI."

For his part, Ada said he is honored to be selected to help continue this legacy of service by Torres and Sablan. "We look forward to reaching out to our community across all groups and backgrounds to bring in ideas, thoughts, and voices to this important cause of rebuilding our islands and building them stronger and more prosperous than ever before."

Torres and Sablan announced their candidacy for governor and lieutenant governor for the CNMI under the full endorsement of the CNMI Republican Party last Aug. 15, 2021. (PR)

House JGO hears bill that seeks to rename SVES after its ex-principal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee held a public hearing last week on a bill that will rename the San Vicente Elementary School after its former principal and former lawmaker Moses Tydingco Fejeran.

JGO also took up at the same public hearing at San Vicente Elementary School's cafeteria a bill that will rename the Youth Center within the Commissioner Joaquin S. Tudela Community Park in San Vicente as the Prudencio Cabrera Youth Center.

Rep. Roy A. Ada (R-Saipan), who introduced House Bill 22-59, said Fejeran's public service has benefitted the entire Commonwealth, especially the residents of San Vicente.

Fejeran was elected San Vicente commissioner for five consecutive years beginning in 1965. He served as the principal of SVES where he "developed a reputation of high integrity, strength of character, resilience and dedication in educating the

children and helped SVES become a strong educational system."

Fejeran was elected in 1988 to represent San Vicente residents and the entire Precinct 1 in the House of Representatives.

Ada said it is fitting and appropriate to rename SVES as "Moses Tydingco Fejeran Elementary School" in honor of his "devotion, dedication, and commitment to the people and San Vicente Village community."

Under House Bill 22-59, the Public School System shall install the new sign bearing the new name at the main entrance of the campus.

With respect to House Bill 22-60 also authored by Ada, the legislation speaks about Prudencio Cabrera, who once served as village commissioner for San Vicente.

In the past, Ada said, Cabrera's memory was memorialized by having a structure named in his honor—a structure within the current Commissioner Joaquin S. Tudela Community Park in San Vicente.

Ada said that renaming the Youth Center within the

community park as the Prudencio Cabrera Youth Center means Cabrera's legacy will continue to be honored and he will be remembered for all his contributions to San Vicente and remind current and future generations of him.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said she put four bills on the agenda to receive the public's input and recommendations.

She said they collect all comments and use them for their debate and deliberations when they have a committee meeting to entertain the bills.

Also in the agenda were House Bill 22-65 that will rename the Commonwealth Health Center as Dr. Carlos S. Camacho Commonwealth Health Center. Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan) is the author of the bill.

The other bill on the agenda was House Legislative Initiative 22-001 that seeks to authorize the election of a commissioner for the Department of Public Safety. Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) is the author of the initiative.



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1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place
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AUGUST 27, 2021		AUGUST 28, 2021		AUGUST 29, 2021	
NAME	TIME	NAME	TIME	NAME	TIME
Saipan Community School Ukelele	4:30	JX Dance (Ballet)	5:30	Baraha Band	5:30
Awadori Saipan	5:00	Tahiti Nui	6:00	Laly 4	6:30
Joselyn Toves	5:30	South Korean K Pop	6:30	Da Kine	7:30
Ben San Nicolas	6:00	Marianas Saxophone Ensemble	7:00	Petlas Micronesia	8:00
POLKSAI Guma Chamorro	6:30	Simiyan Marianas	7:30	Studio 29:11	8:30
Saipan Music & Dance Studio	7:00	Sugar King	8:00	Cab Dancers	9:00
Ana Glushko Dance Academy	7:30	Black Sands	8:30	WD40	9:30
High Tide	8:00	Tasi and the Allis	9:00	Close	10:00
Man Antigo	8:30	Close	10:00		
Tattoo	9:00				
Close	10:00				

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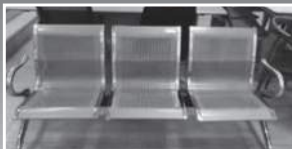
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MCS adds another computer science class to AP subjects

For the 2021-2022 school year, eligible Mount Carmel School high school students will be able to take the new Advanced Placement Computer Science A course with course instructor and vice principal Filmah Buenaflor.

The AP Computer Science A course and exam focus on leveraging programming in Java to solve problems. Students cultivate their understanding of coding by analyzing, writing, and testing code to explore concepts like modularity, variables, and control structures.

The AP Computer Science Principles, which will be offered this academic year, is different from the newly introduced AP Computer Science A.

The AP Computer Science Principles course complements AP Computer Science A and focuses on the broader aspects of computing. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and apply computer science to solve problems through algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to

discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems, including the internet, explore the potential impacts of these innovations and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

Additionally, the AP Exams for the two courses have different formats. AP Computer Science A has one end-of-course exam with multiple-choice and free-response questions. AP Computer Science Principles includes the Create performance task com-



pleted during the course and an end-of-course multiple-choice exam.

Buenaflor underscored the importance of offering another AP computer science course to Mount Carmel School, saying, "Today's job market is increasingly in need of individuals trained in the computer science profession. Many of our students have expressed an interest in computer science and other STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] fields. It is important to us that we work

toward providing more AP courses that will directly benefit their transition to a postsecondary institution and prepare them to succeed in college."

At this time, Mount Carmel School currently offers AP Calculus, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A, AP English, and AP U.S. History.

Acting MCS president Frances Taimanao said the school makes an effort to provide more courses that will interest students and will be beneficial to their plans after graduation. "We are excited to offer AP Computer Science A this school year. After reviewing the AP course catalog, we are encouraging many of our instructors to also expand their capacity as advanced placement instructors. We are looking forward to more AP classes to be offered in the future."

For more information, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)



Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

Pursuant to its by-laws, as amended, the annual meeting of shareholders of Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. will be held virtually/Zoom on Monday, August 30, 2021 at 09:00 A.M., Ch.S.T.

Please contact Rose Taimanglo at (671) 727-9666 or by email at lease@abtower.com to receive remote access instructions. Shareholders will not be able to attend the meeting at a physical location.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office of the Secretary

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Tel: (670) 664-2587 Fax: (670) 664-2571



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program has expanded the definition of Front Liners/Essential Workers. The expanded definition now include:

1. Child protective service workers: those who work in the child care welfare system and other critical social services;
2. Workers in the hotel industry;
3. Field workers from utility, water, and waste water companies;
4. Legally operating transportation services;
5. Public works employees, including parts and recreation and private or other autonomous agencies who conduct field work and inspections;
6. Communications and information technology workers;
7. Hazardous materials workers
8. Financial services and lending institutions;
9. Food delivery services;
10. Employees working at the airport and seaport;
11. Restaurant workers and those who work in the food industry.

Front liners/essential workers who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call **CCDF Eligibility Workers, Genevieve Guerrero, at 664-2576** or email at dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com or **Joella Rosario, at 664-2575** or email at ccd.jrosario@gmail.com. You may also want to visit the cnmiclp.gov.mp to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/S/
Maribel D. Loste
CCDF Director

/S/
Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FLORO JR.)	FCD-DI CIVIL
A. BAUTISTA)	ACTION NO.
PETITIONER)	20-0260
VS.)	
EMELITA BASAS)	SUMMONS FOR
BAUTISTA)	PUBLICATION
RESPONDENT)	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1373 P.O. Box 10002 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court



THANK YOU

The Subang family would like to extend a big thank you to the Good Samaritan who found brought back their family dog, Agaya, last Thursday morning. Agaya became "lost" Wednesday afternoon and was found by the Good Samaritan on the road in front of Marianas Eye Institute along Beach Road in Garapan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PSS' plan for use of \$160M ARPA funds is OK'd

The U.S. Department of Education announced yesterday that it has approved the CNMI Public School System's plan on how it will spend the \$160 million American Rescue Plan Outlying Areas State Educational Agencies funds it received to safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and equitably expand opportunity for students who need it most, particularly those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aligned with PSS's August return to school, the department released the "Return To School Roadmap," which provides key resources and supports for students, parents, educators, and school communities to build excitement around returning to classrooms this school year and outlines how federal funding can support the safe and sustained return to in-person learning. American Rescue Plan funds can be used to support the Roadmap's efforts.

"I am excited to announce approval of the [CNMI's] plan," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in a news statement the department issued yesterday. "It is heartening to see, reflected in these plans, the ways in which we are thinking deeply about how to use American Rescue Plan funds to continue to provide critical support to schools and communities, particularly as we look ahead to the upcoming academic year. The approval of these plans enables education systems to receive vital, additional American Rescue Plan funds to quickly and safely reopen schools for full-time, in-person learning; meet students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs; and address disparities in access to educational opportunity that were exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. The plans that have been submitted to the department lay the groundwork for the ways in which an unprecedented infusion of federal resources will be used to address the urgent needs of America's children and build back better."

The USDOE statement quotes Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada thanking the USDOE for its action. "The plan focuses on helping our schools address the lost instruction time through high-dosage tutorials, socio-emotional counseling programs for students and staff, athletics and other programs that directly benefit student learning," said Ada. "On behalf of the team that developed our ARP plan, we thank the Secretary of Education, the Insular Area team, and all other staff who

reviewed and approved our ARP implementation plan."

The statement also quotes Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP): "With this unprecedented pandemic and learning loss for students, the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress responded with unprecedented resources through the American Rescue Plan. ...As the new school year begins, the U.S. Department of Education's approval of over \$160 million in American Rescue Plan funds for the Northern Mariana Islands will ensure a safe reopening of our schools, protect teacher jobs, and address the learning loss and the social and emotional toll the last year took on our students and educators."

The implementation plan approved by the department outlines how federal pandemic funds are supporting safe in-person instruction and the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students—with a focus on the students most impacted by the pandemic. For example:

■ **Returning to In-Person Learning in 2021:** Vaccination for Education campaign—CNMI PSS is encouraging students 12 years old and above to get the COVID-19 vaccine with raffles to win prizes.

■ **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** The Student Portal Program, that currently offers high school online courses to students across the CNMI, will be expanded to offer a wide array of online course offerings to include elective and advanced placement courses available to both public and private schools throughout the CNMI. Additionally, the program will expand to offer more online learning opportunities at the middle school and elementary level. This is an important step in ensuring equity and access for all learners in the CNMI PSS.

■ **Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Programs:** CMNI PSS will provide Extended Year Learning Opportunities for elementary and secondary students by offering face-to-face credit recovery, project-based learning, and other extended learning opportunities including Career Technical Education Program/Career Pathways and Chamorro and Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies.

The American Rescue Plan Outlying Areas State Educational Agencies Fund, authorized under section 2005 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, provides \$850 million for the Secretary of Educa-

tion to allocate to the Outlying Areas (American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) on the basis of their respective needs. The USDOE secretary allocated these funds to support safely reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the pandemic.

The approval of the PSS implementation plan is part of the department's broader effort to support teachers and other educators as they work

to reengage students impacted by the pandemic, address inequities exacerbated by COVID-19, and build our education system back better than before. In addition to providing \$130 billion for K-12 education in the American Rescue Plan to support the safe reopening of K-12 schools and meet the needs of all students, the Biden-Harris Administration also has:

■ Released three volumes of the COVID-19 Handbook.

■ Held a National Safe School Reopening Summit.

■ Prioritized the vaccination of educators, school staff and child care workers. As of the end of May an estimated 84% of teachers and school staff were fully vaccinated.

■ Provided \$10 billion in funding for COVID-19 testing for PreK-12 educators, staff, and students.

■ Launched a series of Equity Summits focused on addressing inequities that existed before, but were made worse by the pandemic.

■ Released a report on the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on underserved communities.

■ Developed a Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices

Clearinghouse elevating hundreds of best practices to support schools' efforts to reopen safely and address the impacts of COVID-19 on students, educators, and communities

In addition to the actions the Biden Administration has taken to reopen schools, the President has proposed critical investments through his Build Back Better agenda that will enable schools to rebuild stronger than they were before the pandemic, such as investing billions to build a diverse educator workforce, expand access to pre-K to all families, and invest in school infrastructure, among other provisions. (PR)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The Taliban says it will ensure women's rights in Afghanistan. Who believes that?

It would be hard to find an Afghan businesswoman more inspiring than Roya Mahboob. When she started up a software firm in Afghanistan more than a decade ago, years after the U.S. ousted the Taliban from power, the backlash from the country's male-dominated society came swift and blunt.

Anonymous texts and emails warned her to stop working. Banks wouldn't lend money to her, solely because she is a woman. One day, she found a letter wrapped around a rock that someone had thrown into her front yard. "You're a bad girl," the letter read. "When you head outside, you'd better be careful."

Mahboob, in her 20s at the time, wasn't fazed. She kept working and built up a thriving software enterprise. In 2013 she was named by Time magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World." Many other women with similar drive have carved out careers in law or medicine. Some have served in Afghanistan's parliament.

What will happen to the women of Afghanistan now? What will happen to the girls of Afghanistan?

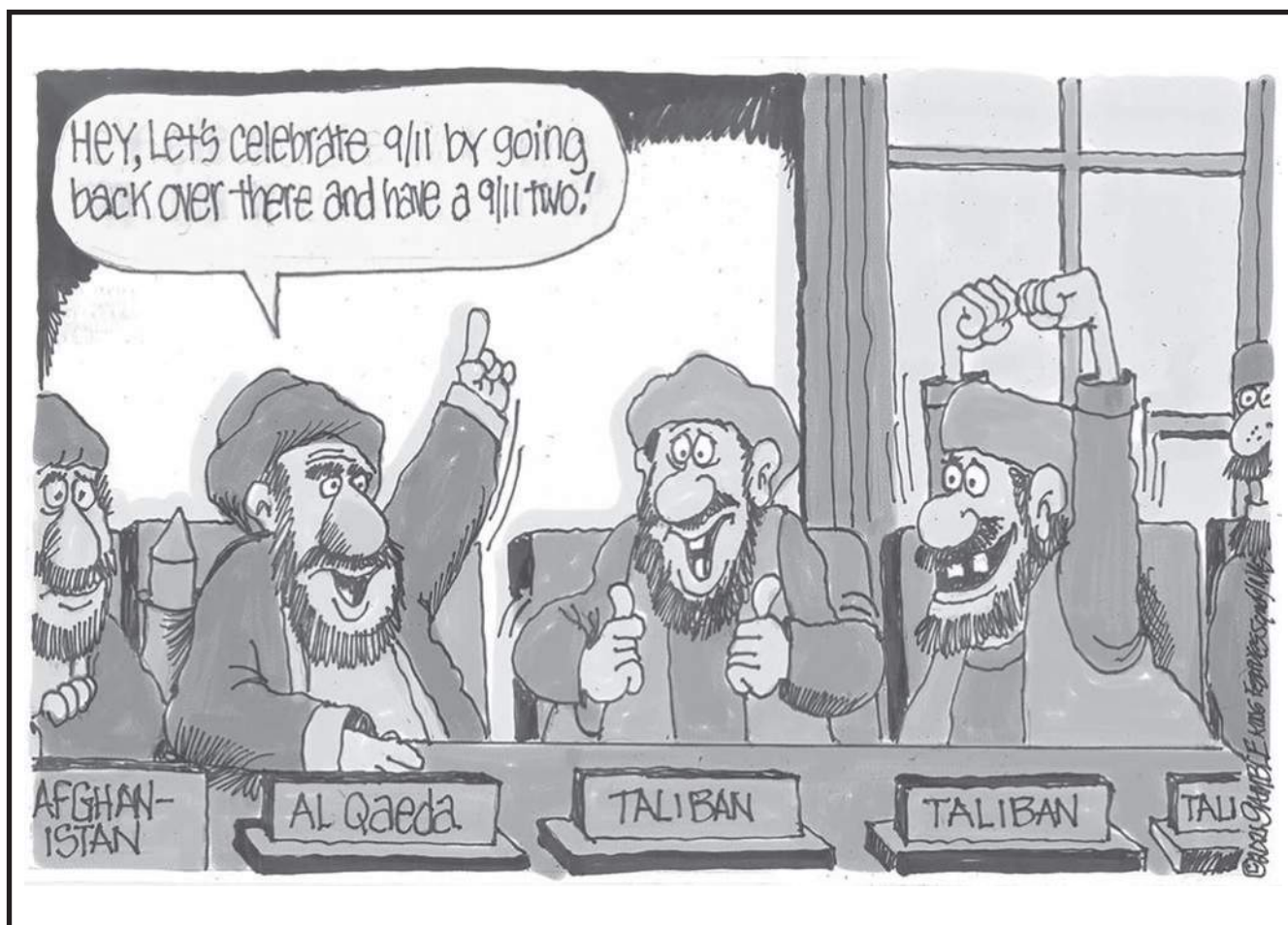
The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has shaken the world. Images of Afghans clinging to the side of a military transport plane, only to fall to their deaths moments later as the jet ascends, have been wrenching. The swiftness with which Taliban insurgents took over city after city, and eventually the presidential palace in Kabul, clearly took the Biden administration by surprise. America and the rest of the West now wonders, will militancy and terrorism once again take root in Afghanistan, safely shielded behind Taliban rule?

For the women of Afghanistan, however, the fear of what's to come is all too palpable. The strides made over the last two decades—millions of girls have gone to school, many women work, others run their own businesses—may vanish under the new Taliban theocracy.

It's not just the gains that women have made that are now jeopardized. Women know firsthand the brutality and barbarism that defined Taliban governance from 1996 to 2001. Girls could not attend school. Women couldn't work, and could only leave their homes in burkas, alongside a male relative as an escort. Transgressions as simple as a face exposed drew floggings. Death by stoning was a harrowing reality for Afghan women under Taliban rule.

Earlier this week, Taliban leaders tried to portray to the world a new, more moderate side to their movement. A Taliban spokesman agreed to be interviewed by a female Afghan news presenter. Taliban leaders are also signaling an acceptance of women taking jobs and working in government. The new Afghanistan, said Enamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban's cultural commission,

See TALIBAN on Next Page



Political appointees are a problem for foreign policy

Seven months in, the Biden administration is struggling to fill hundreds of leadership positions. To be fair, it's been busy with a pandemic, economic crisis and assault on our democracy. So, too, has the Senate, which is responsible for confirming about 1,200 of these appointments. While President Joe Biden is lagging behind most administrations in recent history, this time-consuming task challenges every presidency.

The lag in confirmations impedes many government agencies, but its impact on foreign policy is particularly detrimental. Of 256 State Department positions requiring confirmation, 98 today are staffed by career officials who stayed on from the last administration, leaving 158 for Biden to fill. As of last Wednesday, only 10 have been confirmed, with 65 not even nominated yet.

Most of those empty seats are ambassadors, the president's highest-ranking representative to a country or international organization. In each case, the United States is funding an entire embassy or mission, with employees numbering from a handful to several thousand, whose leadership, direction and influence are severely diminished, for several months to years.

We're not just talking about Fiji either. China, Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and South Korea are just a few of those empty seats. These aren't places where our relationship should be on autopilot.

The number of State Department positions requiring Senate confirmation dwarfs any other. Even the Defense Department, which employs 10 times as many civilians in addition to 2 million military personnel, only has 62 positions requiring Senate confirmation. Only 22 of those are still awaiting nomination.

Of course, it doesn't make sense to fill our military with political actors. Appointing political generals was abandoned after the Civil War for good reason.

But why is the State Department treated differently? America hands out dozens of top diplomatic positions to donors and supporters with no diplomatic experience, while political appointments in the Defense Department are reserved for experienced national security professionals. It's no wonder diplomacy so often takes a backseat to the military in America's international engagements.

Much has been written about how embarrassing this can be. While this reached a peak under President Donald Trump, it is nothing new. President Barack Obama, too, was criticized for appointing some uniquely unqualified ambassadors.

The gaffes get news coverage, but the bigger problem is the volume of top diplomatic positions that get caught up in the political game. It undermines our credibility and impedes diplomatic efforts across the globe.

By **ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD**
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is author of *The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age*.



The acting ambassador, known as the *chargé d'affaires*, might be an experienced former ambassador, or a deputy in over his or her head. Either way, that official doesn't have the same authority as an ambassador. Diplomacy is an old and distinguished sport in which titles and protocols matter. Officials and other diplomats know the difference between a placeholder and the president's official representative.

Several factors feed into these empty seats. The volume of turnover with each new presidency makes a backlog almost inevitable, and Senate confirmation takes time. In today's hyperpartisan atmosphere, nothing is easy, and the new Senate must triage not only confirmations but also the slog of priority legislation.

Occasionally appointments are controversial for policy reasons, but most obstacles involve senators using control over appointments as leverage, or simply a failure to prioritize confirmations over other Senate business.

Getting a new administration up to speed will always be a challenge, but this doesn't have to be one of them. The answer is relying more on nonpartisan career diplomats who can continue serving from one administration to the next.

Giving fewer diplomatic posts to political supporters and big donors would stagger more of the Senate confirmation process throughout each administration, leaving less of a gap with each new president. Having continuity and stability in place in most of our diplomatic relationships would create more space for America's new political leadership to focus on the biggest challenges. This would have the added benefit of more professional leadership in our foreign policy too, which would undoubtedly make it more effective and reduce our default tendency to put the military in the lead.

Or here's a radical idea. We could treat diplomacy like the challenging and essential profession that it is and stop handing out ambassadorships to big donors altogether. After all, no other developed nation does. Perhaps this is an area in which America shouldn't aim to be so exceptional.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Afghanistan: Now, the last 100 yards

By ALBERT S. FLORES JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: *Saipan resident Albert S. Flores Jr. was mobilized from the Reserves in 2019 and away from home for 15 months to complete a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan with what became the last U.S. Marine Corps unit to deploy there.*

This week has been tough. I took some time today to draft the following. For myself, my family, my friends, and my fellow veterans, to make a record of my reflections from this week. I hope it helps some. It helped me to put some thoughts on paper.

I had the privilege of leading the first U.S. Marine Corps Reconnaissance Company deployed to Afghanistan, and I was activated from the reserves to deploy with the final U.S. Marine Corps unit in Afghanistan. This is my perspective.

Afghanistan: now, the last 100 yards.

No one will question if we take a knee this week, to reflect and catch our breath. We earned it. Some solace from everyday life would be healthy for us. Our loved ones will never understand that, in a firefight, as we close with an enemy in the last 100 yards, the only thing in the world that matters in that moment is the warrior to our left and right. Period. Right now, once again, we are in those last 100 yards.

Anger. Disappointment. Anxiety. Confusion. All sentiments we are deservingly weighing as we watch Afghanistan collapse to the Taliban. Each of us will go through our own process. Yet, despite our differences in how we get through it, despite our political leanings, and despite whatever disparagement we feel toward our civilian and military leadership, we should be confident in a resounding commonality: we each took an oath to serve an idea greater than ourselves; we were relentless in our efforts to complete the tasks assigned to us; we fought like hell. We did our part, honorably.

This war changed each of us—for the good, and the bad. We were witness to unspeakable things. To bravery, violence, death, and dark humor found in every portable toilet stall, inexplicable to those fortunate to not have lived at a forward operating base. We have stories to tell, and they are experiences worth sharing.

Pick up your phone and reach out to fellow Afghanistan veterans. Be angry together. Laugh together. Remember freezing in the rain, helicopter rides through the desert, that awful egg omelet MRE, and the times we watched in awe from rooftops as fire rained from the skies. Some of us will struggle this week, and some will struggle later in life as certain memories resurface. But a simple text or Facebook message just might help another veteran win a different battle.

The question most of us are asking ourselves now is, "Was it all worth it?" While I respect each veteran's prerogative to search



Then, Capt. Albert S. Flores, Jr., on a vehicle patrol in the Helmand province of Afghanistan in 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

for the answer to that question, my unequivocal response is, yes.

We rapidly and courageously responded to the terrorist acts of Sept. 11, 2001. During the last two decades, our persistent engagement of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and of terrorism generally in that region of the world, thwarted countless additional attacks on unsuspecting Americans. Most will never know the peril otherwise faced by Americans both at home and abroad.

The convoluted politics of Afghanistan will easily overshadow our successes if we let it. The media, politicians, and even our well-intentioned loved ones will root themselves in opinions based on misapplied facts. This can lead to doubt of our purpose. Do not let it.

A conflict spanning two decades with four separate

presidential administrations resulted in a malleable strategic vision. We saw a change in senior military leadership in Afghanistan every two years, each commander with different ideas. This inherent fluidity would inevitably lead to a complicated exit of our military from Afghanistan. Our exit was going to be messy, cruel, and devastating, regardless of the execution of our final

tactical missions. Strategic messaging of our exit over the last few weeks is another story.

We are in the last 100 yards. We must rely on each other to keep the phalanx strong. Stories of valor in Afghanistan will help to remind us of our goodwill, and the tenacious spirit of the American military. Read for example, the Medal of Honor citation for Cpl. Dakota Meyer of the U.S. Marine Corps, who in 2009 rescued 23 Afghan allies and 13 Americans while under repeated intense enemy fire. Or the Medal of Honor citation for Lt. Michael Murphy, a U.S. Navy SEAL who gave his life to radio for help for his reconnaissance team under fire by a far superior number of Taliban fighters in 2005.

This week is also especially hard for Gold Star families. I cannot imagine the despair they must feel. To the American families who lost a loved one serving in Afghanistan, we are with you. America is forever indebted to you. Your sacrifice, and the ultimate sacrifice of your loved one, matters. We think of you every time we see a flag with stars and stripes. Make no mistake, your loved one is the backbone of our freedom. I do not presume to understand what you are going through, but we will not quit you, and we will not forget your servicemember who gave all for our country.

One day my children will be old enough to discuss Afghanistan with me. I take comfort knowing, when that conversation happens, I can look my children in the eyes and tell them our service mattered. I will tell them we lived true to a particular inspiration of mine, a biblical passage, Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here I am. Send me."

Veterans of Afghanistan, it was worth it.

Albert Flores is a Marine veteran who served in Afghanistan.



Marines from the Reconnaissance Detachment of the 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TALIBAN

From Page 10

"doesn't want women to be victims."

Not surprisingly, the notion of a tamer, more inclusive Taliban has been met with deep skepticism among many Afghans. They remember the Taliban's medieval ways, which haven't been confined solely to the group's pre-2001 rule. In July, Taliban leaders in two Afghan provinces ordered religious elders to draft a list of girls over 15 and widows under the age of 45, who would then be forced to marry Taliban fighters, a decree tantamount to sex slavery.

The Taliban wants to be seen by the world as reformed for the

simple reason that Afghanistan is a tattered, broken country with a dysfunctional economy. Taliban leadership needs the pipeline of funds coming from the West to continue unabated. But the image of a Taliban leader interviewed by a female news presenter isn't going to convince the world, and certainly not Afghan women, that the militant group has rehabilitated itself.






By leaving the country, the U.S. can no longer safeguard Afghan women's rights as it did before. It still has some leverage, however. It can warn the Taliban that existing sanctions on the group will remain in place unless women's rights are upheld. That includes allowing girls to attend school and women to work. Any aid to the Taliban regime should also be conditioned on the group's commitment to women's rights.

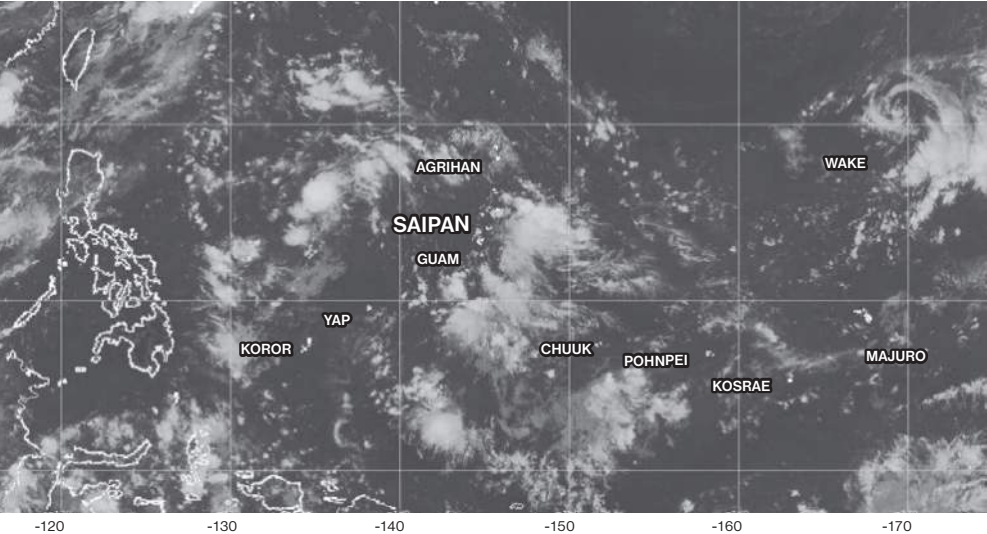
As bungled as the U.S. exit from Afghanistan has been, the

Biden administration was right to pull out. To expect America to remain another year, another five years, indefinitely is wholly unrealistic—and not in U.S. national interest. At the same time, it is indeed incumbent upon America to stand up for human rights in every corner of the world. Under the Trump administration, that ideal was shoved aside, forgotten. It must be revived, and it must include the plight of women in Afghanistan.

Ten days before Kabul fell to the Taliban, Mahboob tweeted, "We refuse to leave Afghanistan to a group that still forces girls & children to live in fear and darkness because they desire a better life. They deserve better. We must give it to them." It's a plea the U.S. and the West cannot—and should not—ignore.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	87°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Guam and Rota this morning. Satellite indicates that this is the leading edge of an approaching trough, with the area outside of radar range expanding northward to reach the latitudes of Tinian and Saipan. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 2 to 4 feet composed mainly of trade-wind swell from about 70 degrees direction, at about 3 feet, and 2 to 3 foot wind waves on top of that.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	83 / 91 °F	
Palau	Mostly cloudy	82 / 86 °F	
Yap	Mostly cloudy	80 / 88 °F	
Chuuk	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F	
Pohnpei	Sunny	81 / 87 °F	
Kosrae	Sunny	84 / 87 °F	
Majuro	Sunny	80 / 86 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:26 AM	4:58 PM
Saturday	-	4:29 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	-	5:29 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	-	6:27 AM	7:22 PM
Tuesday	-	7:21 AM	8:02 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly cloudy	52 / 56 °F	
Beijing	Decreasing cloudiness	79 / 93 °F	
Hong Kong	Broken clouds	80 / 88 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	75 / 84 °F	
London	Mostly cloudy	58 / 72 °F	
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	61 / 78 °F	
Manila	Heavy rain	80 / 85 °F	
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	43 / 56 °F	
Miami	Cloudy	82 / 88 °F	
New York	Thunderstorms	78 / 90 °F	
Osaka	Mostly sunny	68 / 96 °F	
Paris	Partly sunny	50 / 71 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	78 / 95 °F	
Rome	Mostly sunny	66 / 86 °F	
Salem	Sunny	57 / 89 °F	
San Francisco	Morning clouds	53 / 69 °F	
Seoul	Morning clouds	75 / 95 °F	
Tokyo	Morning clouds	76 / 87 °F	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	76 / 92 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:36 AM	High Tide	2.00	
12:09 PM	Low Tide	-0.25	
7:25 PM	High Tide	1.99	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-21

DESIGN, PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SOLAR PANEL SERVICES AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals from a qualified contractor to design, procure, install, commission and maintain a Ground and/or Roof-Interactive Photovoltaic System at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport as per this Statement of Work (SOW), Instruction to Proposers and associated Contract Documents, meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations.

The CPA Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an invitation for bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone, or that factors other than price, such as technical expertise and/or the quality of materials, should be considered in determining the successful contractor.

The Statement of Work (SOW) outlines the project's general requirements and may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning August 20, 2021 upon payment of \$100.00 payable at CPA Accounting Office.

Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the Offeror's proposal package.

A **Pre-proposal Conference** will be held on **Friday, September 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, to discuss the project work in detail. Attendance to the pre-proposal conference is **mandatory**. Proposals will only be accepted from proposers who attended this pre-proposal conference. A site inspection may be performed after the pre-proposal conference. However, site inspections should be coordinated with CPA's Master Electrician, Mr. Steve Koch at telephone number 670-237-6540 or 670-285-5624, or via email at skoch@cnmiports.com.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, or via email to Mr. Koch at skoch@cnmiports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., September 15, 2021. Responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who attend the mandatory pre-proposal conference.

Proposers shall submit one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"RFP for Solar Panel Installation and Management for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport"**.

Proposals must be submitted by no later than **4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

Winning proposer shall be required to comply with 14 CFR 77.5 (c). FAA requires submittal of Alteration Form 7460-1 confirming analysis of no ocular impact to airport's ATCT cab.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____



PUBLIC NOTICE for Hospital Dump Site

Public Information Meeting and Extension of the Public Comment Period

WHO: For the local community and public. Presented by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

WHAT: A public meeting to provide an overview of the results of the investigation for the Project named 'Hospital Dump' a Formerly Used Defense (FUDS) site. Based on the results of the investigations, the Government has reviewed the data with Federal, State and local Agencies, and selected the proposed 'No Action' decision.

The proposed 'No Action' decision is based on the conclusions, that the metals found in site soils, (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-8 metals) do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. Additionally, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in soil above applicable screening levels were successfully removed from the Hospital Dump FUDS site. If after consideration of public comments, this proposed 'No Action' decision is ultimately selected, no further additional investigation, remediation or removal will be performed and USACE will pursue project closeout.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 5 p.m.

WHERE: 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950

WHY: To present to the public the Proposed Plan to facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001), located at Talofofo, Saipan.

HOW: Attend the meeting. To ensure the community's concerns are addressed, the public comment period has been extended from July 20, 2021 to September 30, 2021. In addition, this meeting is being held for the community's attendance. The Proposed Plan and Remedial Investigation Report are available for public review in the Administrative Record file at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Insatto Street, Susupe, Saipan. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit any written comments regarding the project to:

Project Point of Contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch
ATTN: Lori Wong (PM-HDS)
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Fax 808-835-4129
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil



COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.NMIjudiciary.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement No. 21-030

POSITION TITLE:

Department:

Annual Salary Range:

Location:

Opening Date: 8/20/2021

ARPA Information Systems Project Coordinator

Judiciary Administrative Office

\$35,000 - \$40,000

Saipan

Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 21-031

POSITION TITLE:

Department:

Annual Salary Range:

Location:

Opening Date: 8/20/2021

ARPA Information Systems Support Specialist

Judiciary Administrative Office

\$25,000 - \$28,000

Saipan

Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 21-032

POSITION TITLE:

Department:

Annual Salary Range:

Location:

Opening Date: 8/20/2021

ARPA Information Systems Assistant

Judiciary Administrative Office

\$23,000 - \$25,000

Saipan

Closing Date: Until Filled

INTERESTED PERSONS: Application forms are available at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Cell. (670) 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
Hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.nmijudiciary.com>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Tracy M. Guerrero**, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

FSM extends vaccination deadline for Social Security beneficiaries

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Federated States of Micronesia has extended the mandatory requirement for FSM Social Security beneficiaries to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations.

The new deadline is now Sept. 30, 2021. The previously mandated date was Aug. 30, 2021.

FSM president David W. Panuelo issued a directive

to the chair of the FSM COVID-19 Task Force last Aug. 18, 2021, extending the deadline to give ample time to the nation's elderly citizens to complete their vaccination, and in a more comfortable and achievable timeline.

Additionally, Panuelo's directive requires the administrator of the FSM Social Security Administration to provide the chair of the FSM

COVID-19 Task Force a list of Social Security beneficiaries for the special purpose of verifying their COVID-19 vaccination coverage, including special exemption from the vaccination for those individuals with rare medical conditions upon their assessment by a qualified medical doctor.

The directive also requires the chair of the task force to

provide timely updates to the president and bi-weekly updates to the public on the nation's vaccination efforts.

Fifty-five percent of FSM's eligible adult population is fully vaccinated, a 3%-increase from the previous week and directly attributable to the FSM-wide COVID-19 vaccine mandate. A total of 63% of the nation's eligible adult population has received partial COVID-19 vaccination coverage.

As of Aug. 18, 2021, FSM remains COVID-19 free. **(PR)**

Sign up for ukulele class at JKPL



File photo shows ukulele instructor Larry Lee, standing, during a previous ukulele class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library registration for the October Ukulele Class is now open.

The minimum age requirement is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is \$70. Ukulele classes are held at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee.

The JKPL ukulele class is on a "first come, first paid" basis. Students must provide their own ukuleles and a fold-

er to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For questions regarding the ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Caitlyn Crisostomo at 235-7315 /7322 during regular library hours. Class dates are subject to change, unless otherwise specified. **(PR)**

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD/DPW-154
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.
"MARPI BACKUP POWER FEASIBILITY STUDY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON**, VIA E-MAIL AT MichaelJohnson@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM, LOCAL TIME SEPTEMBER 01, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/CGC-HT-SOC-002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23rd, 2021 • TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ NO.: RFQ21-GOV-156
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
"A/E DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE GARAPAN REVITALIZATION PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFQ CAN BE MADE TO **MR. CHRISTOPHER CONCEPCION**, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, VIA PHONE AT 237-2200 OR EMAIL AT chris.concepcion@opd.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CHRISTOPHER CONCEPCION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF P&D

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/HIT-002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"PROCUREMENT OF CHCC INTER-FACILITY FIBER OPTICS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

FAITH, HOPE, AND KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE COORDINATOR /SHELTER SUPERVISOR

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Sister Remedios Community Center Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 AT 4:00PM

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD/DPW/MOT-152
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 01, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF REMAINING 2018 SUPER TYPHOON YUTU DEBRIS ON THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. ERIN DERRINGTON**, LEAD PLANNER. VIA EMAIL AT erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 25, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD/DPW/MOT-153
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"TINIAN DUMP CLOSURE AND FACILITY FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. ERIN DERRINGTON**, LEAD PLANNER. VIA EMAIL AT erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 30, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT


/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Electrician


Duties & Responsibilities:
Plans, installs, tests and maintains the electrical wiring of all fixtures based on job specifications and local codes. Diagnose and correct all malfunctioning systems and components in equipment and fixtures when needed. Tests electrical systems and continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment and fixtures, using testing devices such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, and oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety systems; inspect electrical systems and equipments to identify hazards, defects and the need for repair or removal or replacement to ensure compliance with all safety & OSHA standards and regulations. Identify solutions to on-site technical design problems involving electrical system equipment. Other related duties to be assigned & identified by the General Manager.

Qualification Requirements:
High School/GED & with a minimum of 60 months experience as Electrician With training, certificates and certified as UNIVERSAL Technician

Send Resume to
FUJI PACIFIC, INC.
Mail: P.O. Box 504429, Saipan MP 96950
4th Floor Horiguchi Bldg Garapan Beach Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No. (670) 234-0583 Fax No. (670) 234-3605
Mail: P.O. Box 504429, Saipan MP 96950
Email: fujipacific2020@gmail.com



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-21-037

**A&E SERVICES FOR TINIAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)
& ROTA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) and Environmental Impact Assessment for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2, an Environmental Assessment for submittal to the CNMI Coastal Resources Management (CRM) as a Major siting Permit Application.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RAESP-21-037, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) – Preliminary Engineering Report & Environmental Impact Assessment”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., (ChST) on September 8, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.


All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1

Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1 Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.


All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne C. Ogunoro via email address yvonne.ogunoro@cucgov.org, CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 012 E 02, containing an area of approximately 3,140 square meters, more or less, and Lot 012 E 03, containing an area of approximately 3,060 square meters, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
- The prospective lessee is Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation. The lists of officers for Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation are Zuo, Lina, as President / Treasurer, Wang, Chun-Chi, as Vice President and Zhang Jun, as Secretary.
- The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation, mainly Zhang Jun.
- The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a business to produce stainless steel water tanks and build steel structure factory buildings.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
- The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
- The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 25, 2021 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MANMAPROPONI NA ATKILON NU TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku mannānā'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñiha para u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbluku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariānas. Maseha hāyi na pattida ni intrisao gi halum henerāt pupbluku siña muna'hālum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimonium kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbluku. Kumu mapribeni mās mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

- I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbluku madiskribi kumu Lot 012 E 02, ni kunsissisti kási 3,140 square meters, mās pat menus, yan Lot 012 E 03, ni kunsissisti kási 3,060 square meters, ni gaigi gi hālum Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian pāttin i lugāt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku yan i website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.
- I prospective lessee i Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation. I listan ufisiāt siha para i Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation si Zuo, Lina, komu Presidenti/Tresurāru, Wang, Chun-Chi, komu Sigundu Presidenti yan si Zhang Jun, komu Sekritāriu.
- I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginin manegosiu ni manuñisiāt yan direktot nu Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation, mayutmenti as Zhang Jun.
- I lessee debi na u usa i lugāt put atyu ha' na rason nu i bisnis ni para u prudusi “stainless steel” na tñkin hānum yan hinātsan “steel structure factory buildings.”

I tema nu i maproponi na kontrātan atkilon sa bentsingku (25) āñus na tiempu.

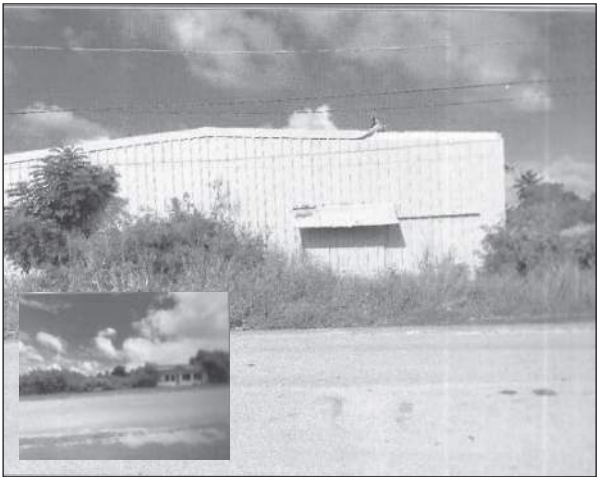
I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' sākkan gi durāntin teman kontrātan i atkilon mapega gi putsientus nu i bālin “appraised fair market” i propiedāt yan i aplikao na putsientu nu i Business Gross Receipts gi halum i regulasion DPL.
- I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntrātan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; osino i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Building, giya Tinian. I kopia managuaha lokkui “online” gi www.dpl.gov.mp
- I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku tāya marisibi ni hāfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbluku gi Lower Base, iya Saipan.
- I Sekritārian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku debi na u akseptā tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimonium kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisāo na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Agosto 25, 2021 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

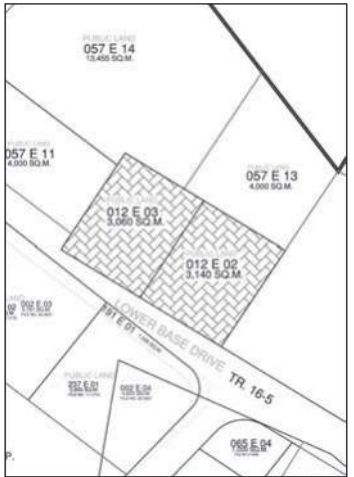
ARONGORONG REEL MÁNGEMÁNGIL POMMWOL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkilaay akkáaw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falúw kka Efang llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isisilong kkapas, data, views, ngäre angingi reel pommwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritwí ebwe akkatéwów.

- Pommwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap e bwááol bwe Lot 012 E 02, e bwáá bwe 3,140 reel square meters, elapeló ngäre eghus, me Lot 012 E 03 e bwáá bwe 3,060 reel square meters, e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngäre u mwuschel amwuri.
- Pommwol schóól atkiloón nge Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation. List-al officers ngáli Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation nge Zuo, Lina bwe President/Treasurer, Wang, Chun-Chi, bwe Vice President me Zhang Jun, bwe Sekkretoóriyo.
- Pommwol atkiloón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi officers me directors sángi Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation, spesiatmente Zhang Jun.
- Schóól atkiloón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli fféerúl “stainless steel water tanks” me kkeyúl “steel structure factory buildings”. Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkiloónol Faluweer Toulap nge reweigh me limoow (25) ráagh.

Pommwol atkiloónol ghal ráagh atol abwungubwungúl atkiloón nge e lo reel “percentage” sángi “appraised fair market value” reel falúw fengál me “applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts” llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.
- Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkiloón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, aplíomwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngäre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoar pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
- Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkiloón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Lower Base, Seipél.
- Sekkretoóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngäre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngäre mmwalil Agosto 25, 2021 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngäre Tchiliyól.





Business



Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar's pork sisig is one its bestsellers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bistro Marianas offers Sunday brunch buffet

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar is finally fulfilling the wishes of its many loyal customers by offering a Sunday brunch buffet beginning Aug. 22.

Reynaldo Faustino said that many customers have been asking him to start a brunch buffet even just on Sundays since he first opened the establishment inside the Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel in early 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, put a damper on that plan, occurring not even a couple of months since he started operations. And just like that, Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar was shuttered for about a month. When it did reopen, hours were limited and food service was only for take-out, as per guidelines set by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.



Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar is located inside the Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Now that the CNMI is at Level Green in the Community Vulnerability scale, Faustino believes it's the perfect time to finally introduce a Sunday brunch buffet at Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar.

"It's worth a try actually since the Sun-



Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar's barbecue ribs and titiyas are must-haves.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

day brunch buffet is cheap at \$20. Nevertheless, we will still abide by the task force's guidelines and protocols," he said.

For starters, Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar's Sunday brunch buffet will have for appetizers pork Thai salad, coco, kimchi, and soup. It will then have seven items in the main menu, including smoke baby ribs, sizzling squid, pork cutlet, chicken chop suey, chicken wings, spaghetti, and sushi. For dessert, fruits like watermelon or melon honeydew will be served.

Those who are leaning toward a more breakfast menu for Sunday brunch can have sunny side eggs and bacon, slice bread, cookies, and *titiyas* that Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar make themselves. For drinks, Faustino said they will be offering free-flowing coffee, hot tea, iced tea, and water.

Bistro Marianas Restaurant & Bar's Sunday brunch buffet is open from 11am to 2pm. It costs \$20 for adults, children ages 6 to 11 will only be charged \$12, and it's free of charge for children 5 years old and below. Each adult guest also gets either a glass of mimosa or two cans of Asahi for free.

For reservations, call 235-1944.

Nation

Dozens of homes burn as wildfire siege continues

GRIZZLY FLATS, Calif. (AP)—A small wildfire swept through a mobile home park, leaving dozens of homes in ashes, the latest in a series of explosive blazes propelled by gusts that have torn through Northern California mountains and forests.

The drought-parched region was expected to see red flag warnings for dangerously high winds and hot, dry weather through Thursday.

Those conditions have fed a dozen uncontrolled wildfires, including the month-old Dixie Fire and the nearby Caldor Fire in the northern Sierra Nevada that incinerated much of the small rural towns of Greenville and Grizzly Flats.

No deaths have been reported despite the speed and damage of the blazes.

On Wednesday, a grass fire driven by winds up to 30 mph (48 kilometers per hour) destroyed dozens of mobile homes in Lake

County and injured at least one resident before firefighters stopped its progress, fire officials said at an evening briefing.

Rows of homes were destroyed on at least two blocks and television footage showed crews dousing burning homes with water. Children were rushed out of an elementary school as a field across the street burned.

Some 1,600 people were ordered to flee, with Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin warning of "immediate threat to life and property."

Lake County has experienced repeated wildfires in the past decade that have destroyed hundreds of homes.

At least 16,000 other homes remain threatened by California wildfires, which are among some 100 burning throughout a dozen Western states, fire officials said.

Tens of thousands of people remain under evacuation orders.



ACROSS THE NATION

Judge throws out Trump-era approvals for Alaska oil project

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A federal judge on Wednesday threw out Trump administration approvals for a large planned oil project on Alaska's North Slope, saying the federal review was flawed and didn't include mitigation measures for polar bears. U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason in Anchorage vacated permits for ConocoPhillips' Willow Project in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in a 110-page ruling. The Trump administration approved the project in late 2020, and the Biden administration defended the project in court. Rebecca Boys, a ConocoPhillips' spokesperson, said the company would review Gleason's decision "and evaluate the options available regarding this project." Spokespersons for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department said their agencies had no comment. The Bureau of Land Management conducted the environmental review of the project that Gleason found flawed.

Authorities: 2 dead in shooting at Indiana automotive plant

FRANKFORT, Ind. (AP)—A woman and her granddaughter were shot dead Wednesday after a gunman opened fire outside a central Indiana automotive plant where the women worked, the Clinton County Sheriff's Office said. The shooting happened around 4:15 p.m. during a shift change in the parking lot of the NHK Seating of America plant on Indiana 28 at Interstate 65 near Frankfort, according to authorities. The suspect fled the scene in a blue Ford, and a high-speed police chase ensued on Indiana 28 toward Frankfort where the suspect crashed his car in a construction zone and was arrested without further incident, Sheriff Rich Kelly told reporters. He said co-workers identified the suspect as Gary C. Ferrell II, 26, of Frankfort, who worked the day shift at the plant, and said he remained in custody pending charges. "We were able to get him stopped within probably 45 seconds to a minute of him leaving the facility," Kelly told reporters. Killed were co-workers Promise Mays, 21, and her grandmother, Pamela Sled, 62, both of nearby Rossville, who were arriving for the beginning of their evening shifts, Kelly said. No motive had been determined, and it was not yet known if the women were targeted or victims of a random attack, he said.

US utility plans to switch 1200 vehicles to electric by 2030

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The nation's largest public utility plans to switch out 1,200 of its vehicles for electric ones by 2030, furthering its role in that market for a power supplier that also plans to help add charging stations across the region, the utility's top official said Wednesday. Tennessee Valley Authority CEO Jeff Lyash announced the changeout plans within its current fleet of about 3,800 vehicles during a board meeting. The plan includes downsizing the fleet's 600 light-duty vehicles to 400 electric versions, which are typically sedans and SUVs; and initially changing out 800 medium-duty vehicles, or about half of the fleet's pickup trucks, TVA spokesperson Jim Hopson said. The utility is also evaluating reductions in the medium-duty vehicles through efficiency and retirements, Hopson said. Possible switch-out of heavy duty ones depends on technology and price improvements, Lyash said. The changes will occur as current vehicles reach the end of their usable lives, he said.

Judge rejects charges for Hawaii officers in teen's killing

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii judge on Wednesday rejected murder and attempted murder charges against three Honolulu police officers in the fatal shooting of a teenager, preventing the case from going to trial. District Court Judge William Domingo, in a ruling from the bench, said there was no probable cause that the officers committed the crimes they were accused of. He noted the teenager, 16-year-old Iremamber Sykap, led the officers on a high-speed chase immediately before the April 5 shooting, refusing commands to stop. He said the incident only ended after Sykap was shot and the car fell into a canal. Honolulu prosecutors filed charges against the three officers after a grand jury decided not to indict them, arguing a trial should be held regardless. It's the first time in more than 40 years that a Honolulu police officer has been charged in a fatal shooting. Officer Geoffrey Thom was charged with murder. Prosecutors said he fired 10 rounds at Sykap through the rear window of the car after it stopped at an intersection. Officers Zackary Ah Nee and Fredeluces, who also opened fire, were charged with second-degree attempted murder.

World

Taliban militants violently disperse rare Afghan protest

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants attacked protesters Wednesday in Afghanistan who dared to take down their banner and replace it

with the country's flag, killing at least one person and fueling fears about how the insurgents would govern this fractious nation.

Desperation, pressure for aid increase in Haiti after quake

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP)—Pressure for a coordinated response to Haiti's deadly weekend earthquake mounted Wednesday as more bodies were pulled from the rubble and the injured continued to arrive from remote areas in search of medical care. Aid was slowly trickling in to help the thousands who were left homeless.

International aid workers on the ground said hospitals in the areas worst hit by Saturday's quake are mostly incapacitated and that there is a desperate need for medical equipment. But the govern-

ment told at least one foreign organization that has been operating in the country for nearly three decades that it did not need assistance from hundreds of its medical volunteers.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ariel Henry said Wednesday that his administration will work to not "repeat history on the mismanagement and coordination of aid," a reference to the chaos that followed the country's devastating 2010 earthquake, when the government was accused of not getting all of the money raised by donors to the people who needed it.

While the Taliban have insisted they will respect human rights, unlike during their previously draconian rule, the attack in Jalalabad came as many Afghans were hiding at home or trying to flee the country, fearful of abuses by the loosely controlled militant organization. Many people have expressed dread that the two-decade Western experiment to remake Afghanistan will not survive the resurgent Taliban, who took control of the coun-

try in a blitz that took just days.

Taliban leaders talked Wednesday with senior Afghan officials about a future government. In a potential complication to any effort to stabilize the country, the head of the country's central bank warned that American sanctions over the Taliban's designation as a terrorist organization threatened Afghanistan's economy, which already is dangerously low on hard foreign currency.

One figure who was not

at the talks in Kabul: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who fled as the Taliban closed in on the capital. The United Arab Emirates acknowledged Wednesday that the Gulf nation had taken him and his family in on humanitarian grounds.

In an early sign of protest to the Taliban's rule, dozens gathered in the eastern city of Jalalabad and a nearby market town to raise the tricolor national flag, a day before Afghanistan's Independence

Day, which commemorates the 1919 treaty that ended British rule. They lowered the Taliban flag—a white banner with an Islamic inscription—that the militants have raised in the areas they captured.

Video footage later showed the Taliban firing into the air and attacking people with batons to disperse the crowd. Babrak Amirzada, a reporter for a local news agency, said the Taliban beat him and a TV cameraman from another agency.

WORLD BRIEFS

Right's group: 1,001 killed since military took over Myanmar

BANGKOK (AP)—More than 1,000 people have been killed by security forces in Myanmar since the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi about six months ago, a human rights group said Wednesday. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors protest-related arrests and deaths in Myanmar, said it confirmed two more deaths on Wednesday, bringing the total to 1,001. There has been a groundswell of protests against the military-led government since Suu Kyi's ouster. Casualties are also rising among the military and police as armed resistance grows in both urban and rural areas. Teik Naing, secretary-general of the AAPP, said most of the people killed were anti-military activists and more than 40 were shot in the head. In addition, a large number died in interrogation centers and prisons after being arrested, Teik Naing said.

Wildfire raging near French Riviera kills 2, injures 27

BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS, France (AP)—A wildfire near the French Riviera killed two people and was burning out of control Wednesday in the forests of the popular region, fueled by wind and drought. Over 1,100 firefighters were battling the flames and thousands of tourists and locals were evacuated to safer areas. The fire started Monday evening 40 kilometers (24 miles) inland from the coastal resort of Saint-Tropez. Whipped up by powerful seasonal winds coming off the Mediterranean Sea, the fire had burned 7,000 hectares (17,300 acres) of forest by Wednesday morning, local officials said. The prefect of the Var region, Evence Richard, told reporters that two people were killed. The local prosecutor said the bodies were found in a home that burned down near the town of Grimaud. An investigation has been opened to formally identify the victims.

Hong Kong police arrest 4 from university student union

HONG KONG (AP)—Four members of a Hong Kong university student union were arrested Wednesday for allegedly advocating terrorism by paying tribute to a person who stabbed a police officer and then killed himself, police said. Police arrested four men between 18 and 20 years old who were committee members and members of the student council at the University of Hong Kong, said Li Kwai-wah, senior superintendent of the police national security division. He said the arrests were in relation to a council meeting that "promoted terrorism." Those arrested included the president and council chairman, who were among more than 30 students who attended a meeting last month at which they passed a motion to mourn the "sacrifice" of the attacker, local media reported.



PROCLAMATION

Special Election for the Third Election District (Precinct 3)

Whereas, Section 9 of Article II of the Commonwealth Constitution provides that "[a] vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by a special election if one-half or more of the term remains"; and,

Whereas, pursuant to 1 CMC § 6502, the Governor is vested with the authority to call a special election to fill a vacancy in the Legislature; and,

Whereas, the Honorable Ivan A. Blanco was elected to serve as a member of the House of Representatives of the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature from the Third Election District (Precinct 3) in the 2020 general election, and come January 11, 2021, was sworn in as member of the House of Representatives and served thereafter; and,

Whereas, on July 23, 2021, the Honorable Ivan A. Blanco passed away; and,

Whereas, in a letter dated August 9, 2021, the Speaker of the House of Representatives officially notified my office that "[t]he untimely passing of the Honorable Ivan A. Blanco, Precinct 3 on Friday, 23 July 2021 resulted a vacancy for Election Precinct 3 of the Third Senatorial District"; and,


Whereas, the term remaining in the vacant seat is greater than one-half of the two-year term and thus must be filled by a special election; and,

Now, therefore, I, Ralph DLG. Torres, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Governor by the laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby proclaim and call for a **Special Election** to be held for the purpose of electing an individual to fill the vacant seat existing in the House of Representatives for the Third Election District (Precinct 3). The Special Election shall be held on **Saturday, October 16, 2021**.

Furthermore, all nomination petitions for the Special Election shall be filed with the Commonwealth Election Commission on or before September 3, 2021, and the Commission shall act on the petitions on or before September 15, 2021.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth Election Commission shall designate and publicize the polling places for the Special Election no later than 15 days prior to the Special Election; establish all other deadlines associated with the Special Election; and cause a copy of this proclamation to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth and to be posted in the Third Election District (Precinct 3).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 19th day of August, 2021.


RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

Off the Wall

Big bird on water is mystery, but town calls it just ducky

BELFAST, Maine (AP)—The sudden appearance of a giant rubber duck in a Maine harbor is a whimsical whodunit that’s defied sleuths so far.

The yellow waterfowl emblazoned with the word “joy” appeared in Belfast Harbor over the weekend, and it’s a mystery who put it there.

Harbor Master Katherine Given told the Bangor Daily News that the 25-foot-tall (7 1/2 meter) duck doesn’t pose a



A giant rubber ducky floats in Belfast Harbor, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, in Belfast, Maine. AP

navigational hazard, so there’s no rush to shoo it away.

“Everybody loves it,” Given said. “I have no idea who owns it, but it kind of fits Belfast. A lot of people want to keep it here.”

Judy Herman, of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, stopped to snap photos on Tuesday.

“It’s wonderful,” she told New England Cable News. “Who would expect to see a duck in the middle of the water here?”



Boston’s famous Skinny House, middle, is seen, Friday, Aug. 13, 2021, and is on the market for \$1.2 million. AP

Skinny House back on the market

BOSTON (AP)—Boston’s famous Skinny House is on sale again for a whopping \$1.2 million.

The vertically rectangular-shaped house was listed Monday, the first time it’s been on the market since 2017. Four years ago, it was sold for \$900,000, The Boston Globe reported.

The home, located in Boston’s North End, is about 1,165 square feet (108 square meters). But more interestingly, the house is barely 10 feet (3 meters) wide at its widest point. The humble abode narrows in the back, ending at 9.25 feet (2.8 meters).

There are four stories in the home and a private deck that displays views of the Bos-

ton Harbor. Also, the house offers updated appliances, hardwood floors and exposed brick, and a Juliet balcony facing private gardens.

The home does not have a front door. Guests enter through a private side door and they’re met with a somewhat full-sized kitchen and dining room. The second floor holds the living area and the house’s only bathroom.

The third level has a living space and a bedroom. Lastly, the upper level of the house has the only other room—a master bedroom.

Appointments are available to view the home, but potential buyers may want to act quickly because the quaint house was sold in less than three months in 2017.

Woman comes face-to-face with snake in Australia supermarket

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Helaina Alati was browsing the spice aisle of an Australian supermarket when she came face-to-face with a huge snake.

The head of the 3-meter-long (10-foot-long) non-venomous diamond python emerged through a space in a shelf above the spice jars in the Sydney store.

“I was in the spice aisle just looking for something to put on my chicken that night so I didn’t initially see it because it was curled up way back behind the little jars of spices,” Alati said Wednesday. “I kind of turned to my right and it poked its head out.”

Alati, who coincidentally is a trained snake catcher, said the snake’s head came to within 20 centimeters (8 inches) of her own.

“Thankfully, I have a background in snakes so I was pretty calm about it. It definitely shocked me a little bit because I wasn’t expecting it,” she added.

Supermarket chain Woolworths confirmed in a statement that a “slippery and rare customer was spotted in the spice aisle” on Monday morning at its store in the suburb of Glenorie on Sydney’s northwest outskirts.

“Once it was sighted, our team members reacted quickly and calmly to cordon off the area for the safety of customers,” the statement said.

Alati said she used her phone to video the snake as it extended its body from the shelf into the aisle before reporting the intruder to supermarket staff.

“I said: ‘I’ll go get my snake bag.’ I think they thought I was a bit crazy to be honest. I don’t think they knew what to say when I said there’s a 10-foot python in your aisle,” Alati said.

She retrieved the snake-catching bag from her nearby home and caught the snake, which had by then retreated back into the shelf. She then released it into nearby woodlands.

It’s unclear how or when the snake entered the supermarket.

Alati, who was trained to catch venomous snakes when she was a volunteer working for a Sydney wildlife rescue organization several years ago, suspected the snake was a male looking for a mate.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† *Jose San Nicolas Muna*

Fondly known as “Ping”
Born on September 03, 1945
Was called to eternal rest on August 14, 2021

Now join his parents:

- Parents:** †Tobias D. Muna & +Estephania SN. Muna
Siblings: †Angelina SN. Muna (Kangkang); †Nicolas SN. Muna;
†Rosita M. Villar; †Yoshiyuki Onuki
In-laws: †Arimitsu Nishimura, †Ramon Tudela, †Isidro A. Sablan,
†Isabel C. Taitano, †Sabino R. Cabrera,
†Vicente R. & †Juliana T. Cabrera, †Juan R. Cabrera
God daughter: †Grace Yukari M. Nishimura

Survived by:

Wife: Soledad (Darlene) C. Muna

Children & grandchildren:

Ray Anthony R. & Julie C. Cabrera (Dylan C. Cabrera, Devyn C. Cabrera, & KeyannahYvette C. Cabrera)
Joseph C. & Janice M. Muna (Joseph Zacarias M. Muna)
Adam & Janella M. Cruz (Joseph John M. Cruz, Jerome Jude M. Cruz, & Jarin Adam Cruz)
Joleen C. Muna (Javan C. Muna, Divine Soledad C. Muna, & Vinci M. Norita)
Edwin Joseph C. Muna & Alaysha Kileleman (Emery Jose K. Muna)
(Reared): John King & Children, Edwin/Dina Cabrera & family, Laura Lee & family
Best Friends: Juan Diego “Morgan” B. Tenorio and Absalon Waki

Siblings and In-laws:

Sophia M. Fejeran & family	James/Daria M. Kintol & family	Alejandro/Victorina R. Cabrera & family
Antonio/Patricia Muna & family	Asunta Sn Muna & family	Angelina C. Sablan & family
David/Etsuko Muna & family	Victoria Sn. Muna & family	Joseph and Dolores (Loling) C. Cruz & family
Ricardo/Percy Muna & family	Tito/Elena M. Salas & family	Virginia Cabrera & family
Edward/Irene Muna & family	Fabian/Eladia Muna & family	
Patricia M. Nishimura & family		

He will also be missed by his numerous, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are celebrated every morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. His remains will be at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, and recitation of the Holy Rosary starts at 7:00am. Our beloved, †Jose will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church at 8:00 am for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

SI YU’US MAASE / THANK YOU

Soledad “Daling” Cabrera Muna, Children and Family

Life & Style

Years in the making, R. Kelly sex abuse trial gets underway

NEW YORK (AP)—R&B star R. Kelly is a predator who lured girls, boys and young women with his fame and dominated them physically, sexually and psychologically, a prosecutor said Wednesday, while a defense lawyer warned jurors they'll have to sift through lies from accusers with agendas to find the truth.

The differing perspectives came as the long-anticipated trial began unfolding in a Brooklyn courtroom where several accusers were scheduled to testify in the next month about the Grammy-winning, multiplatinum-selling singer whose career has been derailed by charges that have left him jailed as he goes broke.

Jerhonda Pace, the first government witness, told jurors Wednesday that she was a 16-year-old virgin and a member of Kelly's fan club when he invited her to his mansion in 2010. He immediately told her to take off her clothing, Pace said.

"He asked me to continue to tell everyone I was 19 and act like I was 21," she said. Kelly responded "that's good" when



In this courtroom artist's sketch made from a video screen monitor of a Brooklyn courtroom, defendant R. Kelly, top left, listens as Assistant U.S. Attorney Maria Melendez, center, makes opening arguments, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021 in New York.

AP

she revealed her virginity, said that he wanted to "train her" sexually and ordered her to call him "Daddy," she said.

They continued to see each other for another six months, with Kelly growing more and more controlling and erupting in violence when she broke

what she called "Rob's rules." One time he grew so angry, "He slapped me and choked me until I passed out," she said with no hint of emotion.

Afterward, he spit in her face and forced her to have oral sex, she said. She kept a blue T-shirt from the episode

that has provided DNA evidence of the misconduct, prosecutors said.

The Associated Press doesn't name alleged victims of sexual abuse without their consent unless they have spoken publicly extensively. Pace has appeared in a documen-

tary and participated in media interviews.

Prior to Pace's testimony, lawyers gave jurors an outline of the trial in their opening statements.

"This case is not about a celebrity who likes to party a lot," Assistant U.S. Attorney Maria Cruz Melendez told the jury as she explained the evidence to be revealed at his federal trial. "This case is about a predator."

She said he distributed backstage passes to entice children and women to join him, sometimes at his home or studio, where he then "dominated and controlled them physically, sexually and psychologically."

The prosecutor said Kelly would often record sex acts with minors as he controlled a racketeering enterprise of individuals who were loyal and devoted to him, eager to "fulfill each and everyone one of the defendant's wishes and demands."

"What his success and popularity brought him was access, access to girls, boys and young women," she said.

But Kelly's attorney, Nicole Blank Becker, portrayed her

client as a victim of women, some of whom enjoyed the "notoriety of being able to tell their friends that they were with a superstar."

"He didn't recruit them. They were fans. They came to Mr. Kelly," she said, urging jurors to closely scrutinize the testimony. "They knew exactly what they were getting into. It was no secret Mr. Kelly had multiple girlfriends. He was quite transparent."

It would be a stretch to believe he orchestrated an elaborate criminal enterprise, like a mob boss, the lawyer said.

Becker warned jurors they'll have to sort through "a mess of lies" from women with an agenda.

"Don't assume everybody's telling the truth," she said.

The remarks fit a theme set by the defense in court papers prior to the trial describing Kelly's alleged victims as groupies who turned up at his shows and made it known they "were dying to be with him." The women only started accusing him of abuse years later when public sentiment shifted against him, they said.

CNN's Ward says Kabul colleague nearly pistol-whipped

NEW YORK (AP)—Clarissa Ward described on Wednesday how a member of her CNN crew was nearly pistol-whipped by a Taliban fighter as they were covering a tumultuous scene outside the airport in Kabul.

"I've covered all sorts of crazy situations," Ward said in a report that aired on CNN. "This was mayhem. This was nuts."

The network's chief international correspondent has been probably the most visible reporter covering the rapid fall of Afghanistan to Taliban fighters. Perhaps inevitably, that has made her words and even her wardrobe a topic of social media conversation.

In one report Wednesday, Ward said it was extremely chaotic near the airport, where

people were pleading for help to get out of the country. At one point, she said, a Taliban fighter shouted at her to cover her face or he wouldn't talk to her. He was carrying a makeshift whip with a heavy chain and padlock.

The CNN producer, Brent Swails, was taking video with a cellphone when two Taliban fighters approached him with their pistols and seemed about

to strike him, Ward said, making a motion with her arms to simulate it.

Another Taliban fighter stopped them, saying not to hit him because they're journalists, she said.

"It's very dicey, it's very dangerous," Ward said. "It's completely unpredictable. To me, it's a miracle that more people haven't been seriously hurt."

Ward has worked at CNN since 2015, after joining from CBS News. She's also worked at ABC News and Fox News, covering a succession of the world's hot spots.

Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz tweeted a portion of one of Ward's Monday reports, where she described an "utterly bizarre" scene of people shouting "death to America" while also appearing friendly.

"Is there an enemy of Amer-

ica for whom @CNN won't cheerlead?" Cruz tweeted.

That earned him a sharp Twitter response from CNN's public relations department: "Rather than running off to Cancun in tough times, @clarissaward is risking her life to tell the world what's happening. That's called bravery." It was a reference to Cruz's Mexican vacation during a cold spell last winter that caused widespread power outages in Texas.

Couple needn't agree on after-death wishes

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I disagree about our arrangements after we pass away. I would like to be cremated and scattered at a location with wonderful memories, like where we honeymooned. He wants a full funeral and to be buried in our hometown, 2 1/2 hours away from where we have been living for almost 20 years.

I don't have a lot of love for our hometown, and am estranged from my family. When I asked why he would want to be buried there, he joked that his kids won't come to visit him wherever he is, so at least his high school buddies can come to the cemetery, drink a beer and toast him.

I do not want to waver from being cremated. I feel the land is for the living. But I also worry it would be regarded as odd not to be in the same plot. Now I joke that I hope I die first because I don't want to have to honor his wishes. It's not a joking matter, though, and I'd appreciate advice about our disagreement.

STILL ALIVE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR STILL ALIVE: Your last wishes are as important as your husband's. Stop worrying about what "people" might say if you aren't buried together. If you predecease him, make sure your last wishes are in writing and hope they will be respected. If he dies first, carry out his last wish-

es. If he believes his old high school buddies will make a pilgrimage to the cemetery each year to toast him, suggest he leave enough money to pay for the six-packs—on an annual basis—and identify a cause to which it should be donated in the event they fail to show up.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: For years I told my mom and sister that I did not want to have "Happy Birthday" sung to me on MY day. Year after year, they ignored my feelings and did whatever the heck they wanted. This persisted from about my 20th birthday through my 40th.

On my 40th birthday, I told them it was the last time I would tolerate my feelings being ignored. They did it again the next year, but when I asked for an apology, all I got from them were fake apologies and lame excuses. I will forever hate my day because it reminds me of how long my feelings were ignored and how my day was made all about their wishes. How can I love somebody who doesn't care about my feelings?

I am now nearing my 62nd birthday. They continue to bring up the subject of celebrations for all of our birthdays, and I continue to tell them I don't "do" birthdays anymore. Their refusal to acknowledge my feelings causes me pain. What can I do?

NO FANFARE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR NO FANFARE: Feeling as you do about your thickheaded relatives, see less of them. If they contact you to discuss birthday celebrations, remember you do not have to participate.

In the future, if they suggest doing something for your next birthday, tell them you already have plans. (It's the truth: You plan to avoid them.)

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

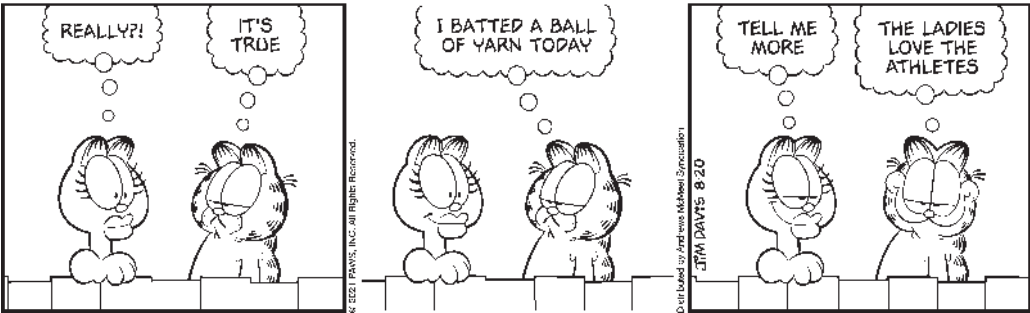
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



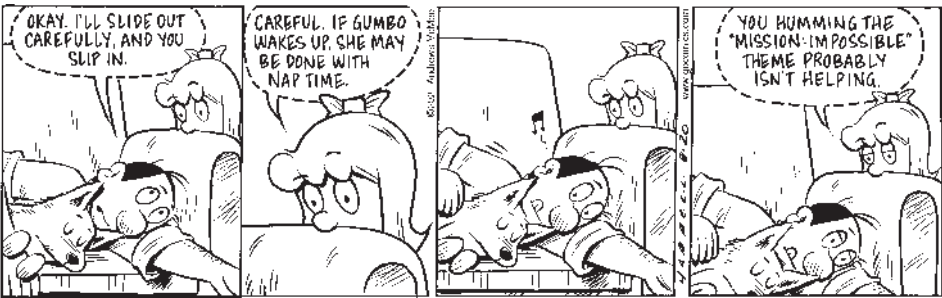
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pouch

4 Sound booster

7 "Speed-the-Plow" playwright

12 "Ben-—"

13 Happy hour venue

14 Livid

15 Verb for you

16 "Continental" fare

18 Knock

19 Confused

20 Incubator noise

22 Medit. nation

23 Body sci.

27 Have

29 NHL team

31 Painter's undercoat

34 Tent securer

35 "Did my best"

37 Punk rock offshoot

38 Plane reservation

39 CIA fore-runner

41 Male deer

45 Pound fraction

47 "Born in the—"

48 Basket-ball play

52 Alphabet end

53 Tequila source

54 Mimic

55 Shoe width

56 Postpone

57 — Moines

58 Map lines (Abbr.)

DOWN

1 Pointy

2 Emanations

3 Thin pancake

4 "Waterloo" group

5 Director

6 Fourth estate

7 Brzezinski of MSNBC

8 "Bow-wow!"

9 Goat's cry

10 UFO

11 Asian holiday

17 Saab model

21 Suggest

23 Choir members

24 Museum-funding org.

25 Biblical boat

26 Mao —tung

28 Misery

30 Doctrine

31 USO audience

32 Tours season

33 Madrid Mrs.

36 Gloomy

37 Flee

40 Golf great

42 Prom duds

43 To date

44 Looks intently

45 Follow orders

46 Stretches (out)

48 Passing craze

49 Get older

50 Erie Canal mule

51 FDR project

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Olivia Cheng, 42; Misha Collins, 47; Amy Adams, 47; Al Roker, 67.

Happy Birthday: Slow down, relax and consider where each decision will lead. Time is on your side, and making the best decision for you will make a difference. Focus on personal growth and physical fitness, and you will be happy with the results you get and how much more you can accomplish when you feel good. Make stability and security your priorities. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 22, 27, 34, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reach out to people who share your concerns, and you'll form a tight bond. Nurture a meaningful relationship by physically showing how much you care. Change isn't necessary, but agreeing on a plan will ease stress and help you move forward. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Set your sights on what you want, and put thought into how you will get your plans in motion. A discussion with someone higher up will bring about positive change that will encourage new opportunities. Mix business with pleasure. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use everything available to ensure you do the best job possible. Listen to suggestions and develop ideas that help you cover every potential problem that can surface. Refuse to let anyone lead you astray. Self-improvement projects are favored. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have to do things differently if you want to stand out and outsmart any competi-

tion you encounter. A passionate approach to the responsibilities you take on will help you gain respect and encourage financial opportunities. Step outside your comfort zone. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Forge ahead. Engage in the physical aspect of your responsibilities, you will feel productive and closer to reaching your goal. Observe what others are doing, but don't feel compelled to follow someone who heads in a different direction than you. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Speak pointedly and you will resolve issues quickly, leaving more time to socialize and enjoy yourself with friends and relatives. An understanding you have with someone you love will help you decide how or where you live. Romance is encouraged. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't settle for less than what you want and deserve. When one door closes, another will open. Be true to yourself, and go after what you want. It's up to you to take responsibility for your happiness. Make physical improvement a priority. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your life simple and meddlers at a distance. Look for the path that satisfies your needs and makes you feel good about where you put your time, money and help. Socialize with people who offer insight and mental stimulation. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Act, and get things done on time. An opportunity to spend time with a friend or relative will lead to a reunion with someone you haven't seen for some time. Expect a colorful

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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rendition of someone's life to spark your imagination. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take precautions to avoid injury or illness. Use your intelligence to ward off argument. Make adjustments that save money. Don't limit what you can do because someone wants you to pay for something that isn't your responsibility. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think big, but don't go over budget. Pay more attention to how you look and feel by making nutritional habits and fitness routines priorities. Be direct with someone you love regarding your intentions, then make plans. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look on the bright side — it will be easier to get things done and win favors from those who have something to contribute to your plan. A positive change regarding money, lifestyle and prospects looks promising. ***

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded, enthusiastic and persistent. You are innovative and helpful

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☿: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☽: Aim high; start new projects. ☿☼☽: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ****

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SCREENS

Solution: 6 letters

7 4 5 3 8 9 2 6 1

6 2 8 5 4 1 7 3 9

1 3 9 2 7 6 5 8 4

3 7 4 8 6 5 9 1 2

5 9 1 7 3 2 8 4 6

2 8 6 9 1 4 3 5 7

9 1 3 4 2 8 6 7 5

8 6 2 1 5 7 4 9 3

4 5 7 6 9 3 1 2 8

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Walker's welcome: Kemba comes home to play for the Knicks



NEW YORK (AP)—The “Welcome to New York” signs decorating the outside of Madison Square Garden and hanging behind him were nice, though unnecessary.

Kemba Walker needs no introduction around here.

He's a New York native who was already playing at Madison Square Garden in high school and made a memorable buzzer-beater during a historic Big East tournament run while playing for Connecticut.

Now he gets to see what he can do while playing there for the New York Knicks.

“It's going to be better,” Walker said. “Ten times better.”

The Knicks held a news conference Tuesday to announce the additions of Walker and Evan Fournier, his teammate last season with the Boston Celtics who was acquired in a sign-and-trade deal.

Fournier, like many around the NBA, called Madison Square Garden his favorite arena. But few players—Knicks or otherwise—can match Walker's history in the building.

The highlight video montage that played before the start of the news conference includ-

ed Walker's step-back jumper to beat Pittsburgh in the quarterfinals of the 2011 Big East tourney, when he led the Huskies to a stunning stretch of five wins in five days.

“That was just a special, special run,” Walker said.

They followed it by winning the NCAA championship, with Walker the Most Outstanding Player. He went on to play eight seasons with the Charlotte Hornets and thought there was a chance he would sign with the Knicks in 2019 as a free agent before instead going to Boston.

Now, a decade after he lit up the arena, the arena was lit up with his picture.

“I think everything is perfect. Everything,” Walker said. “Perfect timing.”

It happened after the Celtics traded him to Oklahoma City in June. Walker agreed to a buyout so he could sign elsewhere, though said the Knicks were his only choice.

At 31, the 6-foot-1 Walker may no longer be the same player who has averaged 19.9 points and been selected to four All-Star Games. He struggled with knee pain in each of the past two seasons, though said Tuesday he



Connecticut's Kemba Walker (15) celebrates scoring the winning goal with teammate Shabazz Napier, in the final seconds of the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Pittsburgh in the Big East Championship at Madison Square Garden in New York, in this Thursday, March 10, 2011, file photo. **AP**

feels great now.

No matter what, his signing was popular in New York, where the Knicks have long searched for a point guard and may have finally found one right in town. Walker was besieged by messages from friends, old coaches and beyond following the news that he'd be a Knick.

“I planned on telling everybody I only get four tickets,” Walker joked to a small crowd at MSG that included

his mother and sister.

Fournier agreed to his four-year deal worth about \$78 million while in Tokyo, where he was France's leading scorer in the Olympics. The French beat the U.S. in their opening game and lost to them in the final, matching their best finish with a silver medal.

The swingman averaged 17.1 points last season for Orlando and Boston and should provide scoring punch for a Knicks team that defended

well under Tom Thibodeau but was searching for more offense in the offseason.

Fournier spoke to Thibodeau during the tournament, with the coach not only wooing the player but also talking trash to him, telling Fournier that after he won a silver medal that he needed to come to New York and talk.

“Unfortunately that's what happened,” said Fournier, though he knew by then that the Knicks were his destination.

“It was pretty clear to me that New York was going to be the team for me,” he said.

The Knicks announced Tuesday they had acquired Fournier along with a pair of second-round draft picks for cash considerations.

They hoped at one time that Frank Ntilikina, Fournier's teammate with the French national team, could be their point guard solution. But the last lottery pick of Phil Jackson just before he was ousted as Knicks president never developed and the search continued.

It led them to Walker, who was on vacation when he learned he was dealt to Oklahoma City.

Vacation is over. Now he is home.

“I can't really put into words how amazing this feeling is, being at home,” Walker said.

Pistons sign Luka Garza, Chris Smith to 2-way contracts

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons signed Luka Garza and Chris Smith to two-way contracts on Tuesday.

Detroit selected Garza, the AP national player of the year, with the No. 52 overall pick in the draft. The 6-foot-11, 235-pound center played well for the Pistons during the NBA Summer League, averaging 15 points and 9.6 rebounds. He averaged 24.1 points and 8.7 rebounds last season at Iowa.

The team signed Smith as an undrafted free agent, giving a player an opportunity after having a season-ending knee surgery last year at UCLA.

The 6-foot-9, 215-pound forward averaged 12.6 points and 6.4 rebounds in eight games last season. Smith averaged eight points over four seasons with the Bruins.

Celtics complete sign-and-trade, sending Fournier to Knicks

BOSTON (AP)—The Celtics finalized a sign-and-trade with the Knicks on Tuesday, sending guard Evan Fournier along with a 2023 second-round draft pick and conditional 2022 second-round pick to New York in exchange for cash considerations. The deal also generated a trade exception for Boston.

Fournier agreed to his new \$78 million, four-year deal with the Knicks hours after the official start of the free agency signing period earlier this month.

Boston hoped to re-sign

Fournier, who it acquired from Orlando at the trade deadline for a pair of second-round draft picks, but was limited by its efforts to stay under the luxury tax threshold. Those efforts were lessened some after the Celtics traded the remainder of the four-year, \$140 million deal they gave point guard Kemba Walker in 2019 to Oklahoma City in June.

The Celtics were unwilling to outbid the Knicks' offer in the end. In a twist, Walker is also headed to New York after agreeing to a buyout with the



United States' Khristian Middleton (8) drives ahead of France's Evan Fournier (10) during men's basketball gold medal game at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, in Saitama, Japan. **AP**

Thunder and signing a two-year, \$17.8 million deal.

The hope had been that Fournier would give Boston some wing depth and another ball handler. But his arrival and integration into the Celtics' system was immediately stunted by stints on the COVID-19 list, limiting him to 16 games.

At the time of his trade from Orlando he was averaging career highs of 19.7 points and 3.7 assists per game. But his output shrunk to 13 points and 3.1 assists over the remainder of the season.

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Shohei Ohtani stars as Angels beat Tigers, 3-1



DETROIT (AP) — Shohei

Ohtani hit his 40th homer and pitched eight sharp innings, helping the Los Angeles Angels beat Miguel Cabrera and the Detroit Tigers 3-1 on Wednesday night.

The crowd of 27,282 was hoping to see Cabrera hit his 500th career homer, but the slugger went 1 for 4 with a first-inning single.

Instead, Ohtani (8-1) put on a show.

The Japanese right-hander allowed six hits, struck out eight and walked none. He also became the first major leaguer to hit 40 homers in a season in which he pitched at least 15 games. The previous record was 29 by Babe Ruth in 1919.

Rasiel Iglesias pitched a perfect ninth for his 27th save, retiring Cabrera on a fly ball to the warning track in right.

Willi Castro homered for Detroit, and Tarik Skubal (8-11) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Braves 11, Marlins 9

In Miami, Freddie Freeman hit for the cycle for the second time, powering Atlanta to its sixth consecutive win.

The reigning NL MVP doubled in the first and tripled in the fourth. He singled in the fifth and hit a two-run drive in the sixth for his 27th homer.

Freeman became the first Braves player to hit for the cycle twice after also accomplishing the feat against Cincinnati on June 15, 2016, according to Atlanta.

Charlie Morton (12-4) pitched six innings of two-run ball for the NL East-leading Braves.

Miami walked 12 batters, tying a franchise record for a nine-inning game. Five of the walks were with the bases loaded.

Miami starter Jesús Luzardo (4-6) was charged with four runs in three-plus innings. He struck out four and walked five.

Yankees 5, Red Sox 2

In New York, Andrew Heaney pitched seven smooth innings, Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run single in his return from COVID-19, and the Yankees matched a season best with their sixth straight victory.

Substitute shortstop Andrew Velazquez, born nearby in the Bronx, delivered a pair of RBI singles from the No. 9 spot in the batting order and combined with Rizzo on a terrific defensive play for the dramatic final out.

Heaney (8-8) permitted two hits—including Xander Bogaerts' opposite-field solo homer on an 0-2 pitch in the first. Lucas Luetge got one out for his third major league save.



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani rounds third base after hitting a solo home run against the Detroit Tigers in the eighth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021. AP

Hunter Renfroe also homered for Boston, which has dropped 14 of 20. Nick Pivetta (9-6) was chased in a four-run second inning.

Mets 6, Giants 2, 12 innings

In San Francisco, Kevin Pillar hit a three-run homer in the 12th inning, lifting the Mets over the Giants hours after owner Steve Cohen called out New York's hitters for a lack of production.

Six Giants pitchers combined to blank the Mets until the ninth inning, when J.D. Davis provided a tying sacrifice fly.

The teams traded runs in the 11th before the Mets scored four runs against Tyler Chatwood (1-3) in the 12th.

The Giants used eight relievers, who combined for 10 2/3 innings after Anthony DeSclafani exited with right ankle discomfort in the top of the second.

Jeury Familia (7-3) surrendered an unearned run in the 11th but still got the win.

Dodgers 9, Pirates 0

In Los Angeles, Max Muncy slugged two homers and drove in five runs to highlight a power performance by the Dodgers.

The Dodgers earned their sixth straight win and moved within three games of the NL West-leading Giants.

AJ Pollock and Corey Seager also homered as the Dodgers built a big lead early and cruised after outlasting the Pirates in a pair of low-scoring one-run games. Los Angeles beat Pittsburgh for the 16th straight time, extending its franchise record.

Muncy jumped on JT Brubaker (4-13) in the first inning, belting a two-run shot

to left. Seager added an RBI single down the right-field line for a 3-0 lead.

The Dodgers' Justin Bruihl pitched 1 2/3 innings before turning it over to Mitch White (1-1). The right-hander allowed two hits in 7 1/3 innings.

Diamondbacks 4, Phillies 2

In Phoenix, Arizona's Humberto Castellanos earned his first major league win and added two hits at the plate.

The Phillies lost for the sixth time in eight games and continued to lose ground in the National League playoff race.

The 23-year-old Castellanos (1-1) permitted one run over 5 1/3 innings in his second MLB start. Castellanos' two hits were the first of his big league career.

Tyler Clippard earned his fourth save, including his second in two days. He worked around a one-out walk, striking out Brad Miller to end the game.

Philadelphia's Ranger Suárez (5-4) gave up three runs over 4 2/3 innings.

Diamondbacks left-hander Caleb Smith had his glove confiscated after the eighth inning. The reliever was checked by third-base umpire Phil Cuzzi, who then motioned for the other umpires to look at the glove.

Smith could be suspended for 10 games if Major League Baseball finds he had a foreign substance on the glove.

Rays 8, Orioles 4

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Ryan Yarbrough came off the COVID-19 injured list and worked five scoreless innings as the AL East-leading Rays handed the Orioles their 14th consecutive loss.

Baltimore, which also had a 14-game skid from May 18-31, joined the Boston Braves as the only teams to have a pair of 14-game or longer losing streaks in the same season since 1901. The Braves did it twice, in 1911 and 1935.

Yarbrough (7-4) followed opener Louis Head to start the second inning and gave up one hit in his first appearance since Aug. 6.

Cedric Mullins and rookie Ryan Mountcastle homered for Baltimore. Spenser Watkins (2-5) allowed four runs and eight hits in four innings.

White Sox 3, Athletics 2

In Chicago, Luis Robert had three hits and two RBIs, sending the White Sox to the victory.

Garrett Crochet (3-5), the first of four Chicago relievers, pitched 1 2/3 innings for the win. Liam Hendriks got five outs against his former team for his 28th save.

White Sox starter Lance Lynn was ejected by umpire Nic Lentz in the middle of the fourth when he complained and appeared to throw his belt during a foreign substance check at the dugout.

Seth Brown homered for Oakland, which lost its fourth straight. Paul Blackburn (0-1) allowed three runs in 5 1/3 innings.

The A's learned before the game that pitcher Chris Bassitt has a broken bone in his cheek and needs surgery. The right-hander sustained no eye damage after being struck on the side of the head by a line drive Tuesday.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 4, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Jackie Bradley Jr. scampered home on a wild pitch

in the 10th inning, and Avisail Garcia hit two homers to help Milwaukee rally for the win.

Willy Adames also connected for the NL Central-leading Brewers. Josh Hader (4-2) picked up the win, and Devin Williams recorded his third save.

Garcia hit a solo shot in the ninth off Alex Reyes (5-6), tying it at 3.

St. Louis committed two errors in the 10th—all three Milwaukee runs were unearned.

The Brewers are 8-1 on a 10-game road trip, all against NL Central teams.

Rockies 7, Padres 5

In Denver, Jake Arrieta got clobbered by Colorado and left with an injury in his San Diego debut.

C.J. Cron had two hits and three RBIs and Trevor Story homered for the Rockies, who scored five runs in 3 1/3 innings against Arrieta before he departed with an injured left hamstring.

Arrieta (5-12) was signed Monday after being placed on waivers by the Chicago Cubs. He allowed seven hits and let his ERA rise to 7.13 on Dom Nunez's solo homer before grabbing his hamstring and exiting the game.

Wil Myers homered twice for the slumping Padres. Ben Bowden (2-2) got the win, and Daniel Bard pitched the ninth for his 20th save.

Twins 8, Indians 7, 11 innings

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco drove in the game-ending run for Minnesota for the third time in four games, lining a bases-loaded single in the 11th inning.

The Twins survived after blowing a two-run lead in the ninth and nearly won it in the 10th. Cleveland third baseman Ernie Clement leaped to rob Luis Arraez of a hit, and center fielder Myles Straw made a two-out diving catch on a liner from Ryan Jeffers.

Danny Coulombe (3-1), Minnesota's eighth pitcher, tossed one inning and was aided by Nick Gordon robbing Bradley Zimmer with a two-out sliding catch in left center.

Justin Garza (2-1), Cleveland's seventh pitcher, took the loss.

Mariners 3, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Kyle Seager hit a two-run homer for Seattle, and Marco Gonzales pitched 5 1/3 shutout innings.

Gonzales (5-5) allowed six hits. Drew Steckenrider, Seattle's fifth reliever, pitched a perfect ninth inning for his fifth save in eight opportunities.

Seager's 421-foot drive in the first was his club-leading

27th of the season. It was the 34th homer allowed this season by Mike Foltyniewicz (2-12), most in the major leagues.

The Mariners (65-56) have won six of seven to move a season-best nine games over .500.

The Rangers (42-78) are a major-league worst 7-23 following the All-Star break.

Royals 3, Astros 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Hunter Dozier hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning, and Kansas City earned its third straight win over Houston.

Dozier homered off Blake Taylor (2-4) to help the Royals post their 31st come-from-behind victory of the season, fourth-most in the American League.

The game ended when Andrew Benintendi threw out Chas McCormick trying to score from second on a single by Jose Altuve.

The loss dropped the Astros to 33-25 this year against teams with a losing record. Houston is 37-25 against teams with a .500 record or better.

Domingo Tapia (1-0) earned the victory, and Scott Barlow picked up his seventh save.

Cubs 7, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Michael Hermosillo homered for the first time since 2018, Ian Happ and Sergio Alcántara also went deep, and depleted Chicago beat Cincinnati.

Adrian Sampson, called up from Triple-A Iowa earlier in the day to pitch in the majors for the first time since 2019, held the Reds to one run and five hits in four innings.

Manuel Rodríguez (1-2), Rowan Wick, Adam Morgan and Trevor Megill blanked Cincinnati over the final five innings, allowing one hit.

Reds starter Tyler Mahle (10-4) gave up five runs and eight hits in five innings.

Nationals 8, Blue Jays 5

In Washington, Josh Bell hit a three-run homer off former teammate Brad Hand, sending the Nationals to the victory.

Juan Soto and Carter Kieboom also connected for Washington, which won back-to-back games for the first time since July 27-29.

Marcus Semien homered twice and Teoscar Hernández went deep for the fourth consecutive game for Toronto.

Hand (5-7) entered with one on in the seventh and Toronto clinging to a 5-4 lead. After Soto walked, Bell hit a drive to right for his 20th homer.

Mason Thompson (1-1) recorded the last two outs of the seventh for his first major league victory. Kyle Finnegan pitched 1 1/3 innings for his fourth save.

SOUTHERN

From Page 24

With the close win, Southern United remains unbeaten in four games to keep the lead in the Premier Division.

In the other match in the same category, Kanoa dominated Shirley's FC-B, 6-0, to move up to second place in the team standings with its 2-0-2 win-draw-loss record.

Ivan Gozum powered Kanoa to the easy victory after drilling four goals, while Kelsey McClellan contributed two.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION MP United 6, Southern United 2

MP United notched win No. 3 after outclassing Southern United last Sunday.

Raina Avelino caught fire early for MP United, as she delivered three straight goals. Laarni Zapanta chipped in a pair, while Julia Ishikawa added one. Southern United drew its twin goals from Raena Ramarui and Marie Castro

Matansa 3, Kanoa 0

In the other game in the division last weekend, Matansa shut down Kanoa.

Bunruang Brasuell nailed two goals for Matansa, while Tawny Barcinas made one for the team's second victory in four matches.

NOVICE DIVISION Matansa 3, Paire-2 0

Matansa was also triumphant in the Novice Division's curtain-raiser last Sunday after blanking Paire-2.

BRIDGE

From Page 24

who are also parents from Japan, Korea, and even from here have been clamoring for its return for a long time. So, we decided to hold the Taga Kids in conjunction with the Mini Games tryouts this weekend," he said.

As already alluded to by Sitchon, TRAC will not only conduct the Taga Kids Triathlon tomorrow but will also hold the first of a series of tryouts for the CNMI National Triathlon Team that will represent the Commonwealth in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

The sprint triathlon will start at 6am at Paupau Beach in San Roque and will consist of a 750m swim, a 20-kilometer bike (Paupau/Seafix/Banzai/Paupau), and 5km run (Paupau/Ayuyu Drive/Paupau).

A total of 20 have signed up for the tryouts, namely Pamela Walsh, Kerri Bauer, Lindsay Nash, Robyn Spaeth, Janet King, Shawna Brennfleck, Ayano Braxton, Tania Tan, Kathy Ruszala, Lily Muldoon, Heather Brook, Jester Baldonado, Danny Calvo, Florence



Kanoa Football Club's Kelsey McClellan, seen here trying to control the ball, scored two goals in their Premier Division game against Shirley's Football Club-B in the Dove Women's Summer League 2021 last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sandy Leon Guerrero, Elaine Sablan, and Raena Camacho scored for Matansa.

Paire-1 2, Kanoa 1

Paire-1 nipped Kanoa in the second match in the division.

Robyn Spaeth and Pam Walsh delivered the pair of goals for Paire-1. Spaeth drew first blood for Paire-1 with her goal in the 16th minute, while Walsh hit her target in the 31st. Kanoa's lone goal came from Jean Bernardo in the 37th minute.

Antonio, Travis Spaeth, Jacoby Winkfield, Eric David Li, Christian Villacrusis, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Sitchon himself.

As per the Pacific Games Council manual, TRAC earlier said that to be eligible for the Mini Games an athlete must be a U.S. passport-holder and must have resided in the CNMI for five years.

The 2022 Mini Games will be held in the CNMI from June 17 to 25. Triathlon, one of nine sports that will be offered in the Mini Games, will have 53 participants and will be held in the southernmost island of the CNMI on Rota.

Aside from Bridge Capital LLC, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center is also sponsoring tomorrow's Taga Kids Triathlon and Mini Games tryouts.

Registration for both the Mini Games tryout and Taga Kids closed last Aug. 15, 2021. TRAC also emphasized that there absolutely will be no extension on the registration deadline and no-race day registration.

For more information and updates on the twin events hosted by TRAC, check <https://www.facebook.com/groups/610323035687262>.

BTS co-ed volleyball tourney next week

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Agape Christian School will be holding an open co-ed volleyball tournament next week from Aug. 26 to 28 at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Dubbed the Back-to-School Co-ed Volleyball Tournament, the competition is open to volleyball players 14 years old and above and teams can have as much as 10 players with two female players suiting up inside the court at all times.

Tournament coordinator En Yang Pang said they will be using the men's net height throughout the duration of the tournament and registration deadline is on Aug. 23 at 9pm. A captain's meeting will start at 7pm on the same day.

"There must be a minimum of two females on the court at all times. The tournament will start on Thursday the 26th at 6pm and end on Saturday night, probably by 9pm. I am anticipating around 12 teams, but the more the merrier. De-



Agape Christian School's Back-to-School Co-ed Volleyball Tournament will be held next week from Aug. 26 to 28 at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road in Gualo Rai. MARK RABAGO

pending on the number of teams, we will play round robin or round robin within pools. Eight teams will qualify for the knockout stage, which will be single elimination, until the champions are found," he said.

Registration fee for Back-to-School Co-ed Volleyball Tournament is \$150 per team of a maximum of 10 people. The rules and the registration PDFs are on the Saipan Volley Facebook group, but interested participants could also email

Pang at fastswimmer4saipan@gmail.com to obtain a copy of the registration/waiver form. Those interested can also email Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association board member Shawn Davis at smd4839505@gmail.com.

PBS

From Page 24

events," he said.

Kimura gave kudos to Suzuki for taking part in the time trial despite the sprint distance being not his cup of tea.

"Jinnosuke is a middle/long distance swimmer. So, this month's time trial became a disadvantage for him because it's short-distance event only. However, short sprint ability is also very important for middle/long distance swimmer. I hope Jinnosuke gets sprint power and technique for his main event," he said.

Just like his teammates, Juhn Tenorio also managed to go 4-for-4 last week. He saw PBs in the 50m butterfly (19.25 from 19.53), 50m backstroke (19.76 from 20.11), 50m breaststroke (24.27 from 25.03), and 50m freestyle (17.32 from 17.83).

Tenorio feels that the backstroke is his best stroke but admits he still needs to work on it.

"My style one or best stroke is backstroke. I have been a back-stroker for a long a long time now. But I still see the weakness in my kick. So everyday in practice I am trying to focus on improving my kick which will help me a lot in a race. My time will be way faster than my old times. I cannot wait to show that," he said.

Maria Batallones also saw improvement across the board in the 50m butterfly (23.46 from 28.15), 50m backstroke (24.02 from 26.34), 50m breaststroke (27.63 from 29.97), and 50m freestyle

(20.90 from 23.38).

She said she's quite content with her swims in the time trial last week.

"I am very happy for the results from our last time trial. Not just mine but I think everyone did well. I'm very proud of myself for my 50m breast stroke time, especially since I work hard. I did well for my other events as well. Next time trial, I hope to improve and get faster times. In the meantime, I will focus on my skills, to improve, and I will work hard for the next time trial," she said.

Asaka Litulumar said last week's time trial was a success because it showed all Tsunami Saipan swimmers the work they need to do. She also marked four PBs in the 50m butterfly (24.57 from 25.75), 50m backstroke (24.66 from 26.12), 50m breaststroke (28.38 from 31.20), and 50m freestyle (21.02 from 21.94).

"Everyone did amazing during the time trial. We all showed great efforts and got amazing results. I got best times, but I hope to improve more in freestyle because it is my best stroke. In the next time trial, I will do my best and get faster times," she said.

Her sister, Shoko, was not far off and also duplicated the feat by recording personal bests in the 50m butterfly (24.32 from 25.11), 50m backstroke (24.09 from 25.85), 50m breaststroke (29.14 from 29.79), and 50m freestyle (21.81 from 22.87).

Shoko had strong opinions about last week's time trial,

even saying swimming all strokes was very hard.

"Swimming breaststroke is like swimming in hell. Swimming all strokes is hell. But I do my best in all I do because the outcome of my hard work is all I need, and the time trial was the day I swam my hardest to know how far I've come. Though we swam all for strokes for the time trial, I wanted to guarantee myself that I get a PBT for breaststroke—my stroke—and I did, but I was not satisfied. The times I get during practice are faster, so I am disappointed. I will soak in this feeling of disappointment and make sure to keep it with me during practice as a reminder to train harder. I hope to get faster times in all strokes next time trial. I am looking forward to it," she said.

Kimura congratulated all Tsunami Saipan members who dropped their personal best times during last week's time trial and encouraged those who fell short to try their best next time around. He also clarified Tsunami Saipan's membership policy.

"Tsunami Saipan always recruits new swimmers. But we can only accept those who are under 6 years old and they should've at least American Red Cross Level 2 [swimming] skills. This is because we keep the number of coaches to a minimum in consideration of the current COVID-19 situation. Contact should be avoided as much as possible. In such a situation, including safety management, the above membership conditions will be asked," he said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	74	47	.612	
New York	69	52	.570	5
Boston	69	54	.561	6
Toronto	63	56	.529	10
Baltimore	38	81	.319	35

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	71	50	.587	
Cleveland	58	61	.487	12
Detroit	58	64	.475	13 1/2
Minnesota	54	67	.446	17
Kansas City	52	67	.437	18

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	70	50	.583	
Oakland	68	53	.562	2 1/2
Seattle	65	56	.537	5 1/2
Los Angeles	61	61	.500	10
Texas	42	78	.350	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	65	56	.537	
Philadelphia	61	59	.508	3 1/2
New York	60	60	.500	4 1/2
Washington	52	68	.433	12 1/2
Miami	51	70	.421	14

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	74	47	.612	
Cincinnati	65	57	.533	9 1/2
St. Louis	61	58	.513	12
Chicago	54	69	.439	21
Pittsburgh	42	79	.347	32

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	78	43	.645	
Los Angeles	75	46	.620	3
San Diego	67	56	.545	12
Colorado	55	66	.455	23
Arizona	40	81	.331	38

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOVE WOMEN'S SUMMER LEAGUE 2021 STANDINGS (As of Aug. 19, 2021)

Premier Division	GP	PTS	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Southern United FC	4	12	4	0	0	27	9	18
Kanoa FC	4	6	2	0	2	15	8	7
Shirley's FC-A	4	6	2	0	2	11	9	2
Shirley's FC-B	4	0	0	0	4	4	31	-27

Intermediate Division	GP	PTS	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Paire FC	4	12	4	0	0	21	0	21
MPU FC	4	9	3	0	1	11	5	6
Matansa FC	4	6	2	0	2	9	9	0
Kanoa FC	4	3	1	0	3	4	7	-3
Southern United FC	4	0	0	0	4	5	28	-23



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**BTS co-ed
volleyball
tournament
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose with alumnus Shigeki Tenorio, center, after last week's time trial in an undisclosed private swimming pool on island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

110 PBs in Tsunami Saipan time trial

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan swimmers recorded a total of 110 personal bests during an official time trial last week at an undisclosed swimming pool in a private residence on island.

Coach Hiro Kimura said the club's six top swimmers performed well during the time trial with all of them improving their times in the 50m butterfly,

50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 50m freestyle.

Isaiah Aleksenko dropped times in the 50m butterfly (18.99 from 20.29), 50m

backstroke (19.01 from 20.30), 50m breaststroke (24.27 from 25.03), and 50m freestyle (18.06 from 18.89). He said his most happy with his butterfly result because that is his favorite stroke.

"My favorite is the butterfly. That's because I've been doing the butterfly stroke since I was around 8 years old. I like the butterfly more than any other stroke because I see more potential in myself if I do butterfly,

and because I got most of my medals and records from the butterfly," he said.

Jinnosuke Suzuki also recorded personal bests in the 50m butterfly (19.09 from 19.70), 50m backstroke (19.78 from 21.42), 50m breaststroke (23.75 from 24.09), and 50m freestyle (18.31 from 18.53).

"I think I did pretty good in most of my events. The 50m free was my best out of all the

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Southern United still perfect in Dove league

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Dove Southern United Football Club extended its winning streak in the Dove Women's Summer League 2021 to four after nosing out Shirley's Football Club-A, 2-1, last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kobleville.

Nathanette Blas and Britanny Wally fired the two goals for Southern United with the former scoring in the 16th minute and the latter eight minutes later. Shirley's-1 countered with only one goal in the first half, courtesy of Alexa Vergara's shot in the 29th minute and Southern United hung on to the shaky lead, as neither team found the back of the net in the second half.

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Southern United FC's Nathanette Blas, left, celebrates with teammate Jannah Casarino after scoring in their game against Shirley's Football Club-A in the Premier Division of the Dove Women's Summer League 2021 last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kobleville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, Bridge Capital LLC property manager Don Hallmark, Triathlon Association of the CNMI representatives Andy Estepa and Floro Derexes, Bridge Capital office manager Julie Dueñas, TRAC volunteer Marco Paulo Castro, and TRAC secretary general Ricky Castro hold the giant \$500 mockup check that represents the company's donation to the triathlon club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridge Capital donates \$500 for Taga Kids

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Bridge Capital LLC has donated \$500 to the Triathlon Association of the CNMI's staging of the Taga Kids Triathlon tomorrow, Aug. 21, in Marpi.

TRAC secretary general Ricky Castro couldn't thank the company enough for its monetary donation. "Bridge Capital is always there to support Taga Kids and the Triathlon Association of the CNMI in general and we are thankful for their support even in these challenging times just to have an event for kids to 'tri,'" he said.

A total of 29 children and two relay teams have signed up for the Taga Kids

Triathlon that will have two divisions—5-8 years old (50m swim/1 loops bike/1 loop run) and 9-12 years old (100m swim/2 loops bike/2 loops run). Castro earlier said the entire Taga Kids course will be confined at the Paupau Beach complex.

TRAC president Manny Sitchon also thanked Bridge Capital LLC for their donation and added that he's just glad that his club can finally again hold the Taga Kids Triathlon.

"It's been long overdue. Even during the last Taga-man in 2019 we already had plans to stage the Taga Kids but unfortunately it didn't push through. Triathletes

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